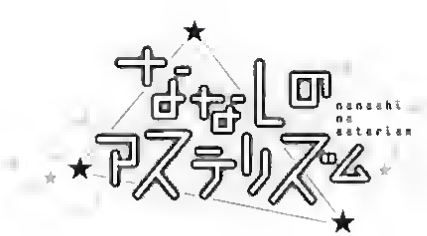
ななしのアステリズム

vol 1

小林キナ


ななしのアステリズム
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vol.1
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nanashi no asterism
小林キナ

第1話 ★ Secret 003

第2話 ★ After That 053

第3話 ★ Little Brother 101

第4話 ★ Consultation 139

第5話 ★ Namelessness 185

番外編 ★ Film 238

I HAVE A SECRET.
NAME: WASHIO NADESHIKO
.....
THIS IS MY NEW BOYFRIEND, MUU-KUN! ♡
NAME: KOTOOKA MIKAGE
NAME: SHIRATORI TSUKASA
EH!?
AGAIN!?
UE!
SHIRA-TORI
I'LL REJECT NONE WHO COME TO ME~
KOTOOKA, YOU ALWAYS PICK UP ANOTHER WITHIN THE WEEK, IT'S QUITE THE HABIT.

SLIDE 141
IT'S STUCK.
HEY!
IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY ALREADY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES THIS YEAR?
GOODNESS, YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE KID Y'KNOW
HAHAHA
SU~
SUCH ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AS EXPECTED OF WASHIO~
.....

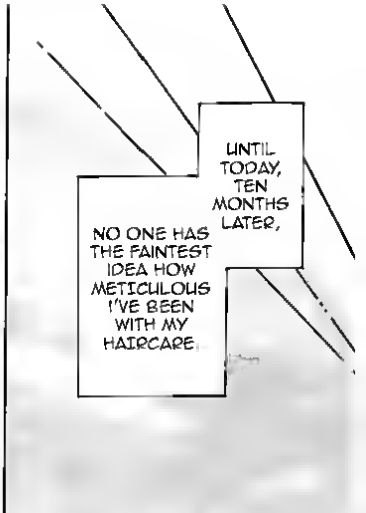
MY SECRET...
WELL, ABOUT THAT...

第1話★ヒミツ
Chapter 1 = Secret

IT HAPPENED ON THE DAY I BEGAN MY LIFE AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
KNUCKLE
KNUCKLE
KNUCKLE
KNUCKLE
I'M SO SORRY! DID I DISRUPT YOUR READING?
UNTIL JUST NOW, IT'S BEEN SUPER CROWDED. IT MUST HAVE GOTTEN TANGLED.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
GEH
IT WON'T COME LOOSE...
TUG TUG TUG

SNAP
HANG ON A MOMENT.
THIS PERSON IS TALL, THEY MUST BE AN UPPER CLASS-MEN!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF THE SENIORS USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO TARGET ME??
TUG TUG TUG
OKAY, THERE YOU GO
AH... AH, UH UMMMM.. BUT... THE BUBUNNOT... IT'S....
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A WASTE TO JUST TEAR IT OFF?
YOU HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL HAIR, AFTER ALL.
BUBUNNOT?
FROM THAT DAY ON...

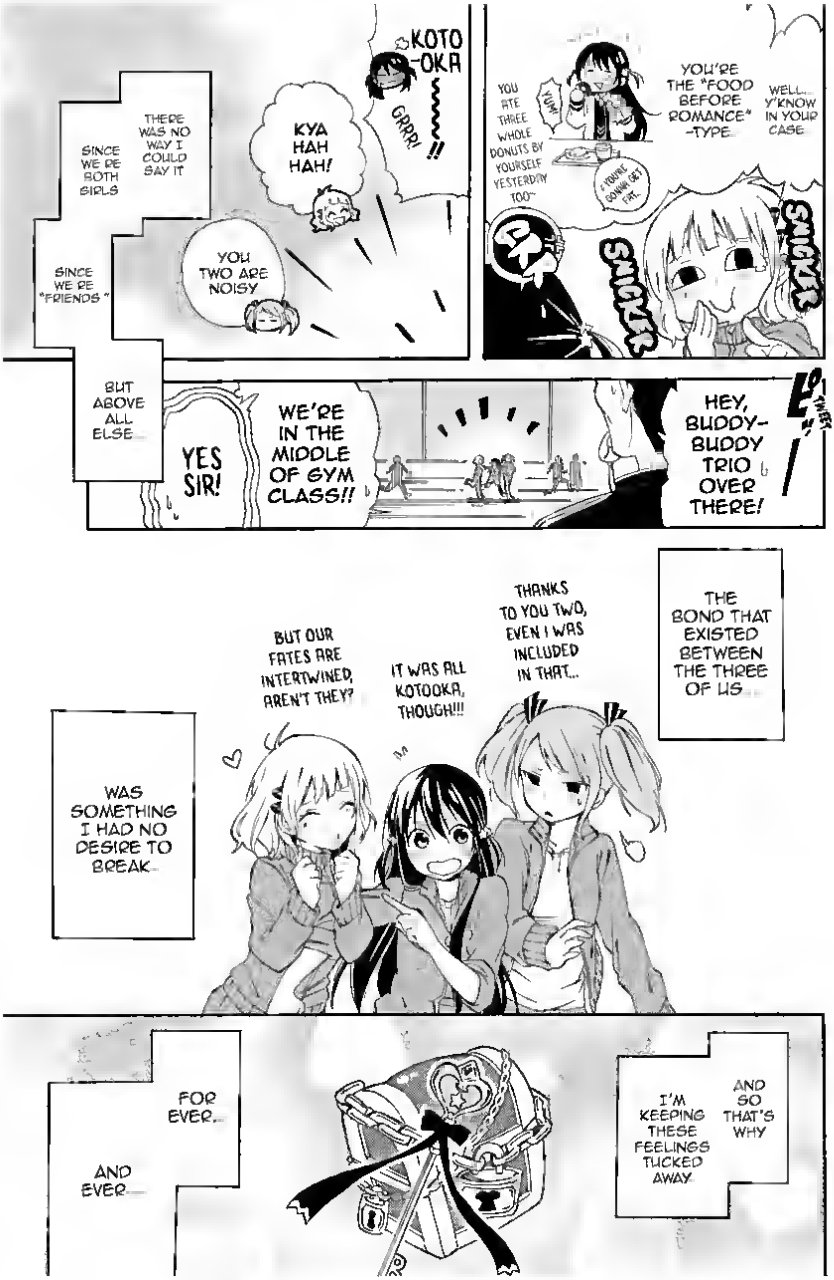
BUT YOU GUYS! YOU'VE NEVER EVER EXPERIENCED A LOVE STORY!
THIS CONVERSATION AGAIN?
.....
FOR A GIRL IN PUBERTY, THAT'S SIMPLY UNTHINKABLE!


UNTIL TODAY, TEN MONTHS LATER,
NO ONE HAS THE FAINTEST IDEA HOW METICULOUS I'VE BEEN WITH MY HAIRCARE.

I'M NOT INTERESTED

SERIOUSLY, NEITHER OF YOU?
THERE'S NO ONE YOU LIKE?

IT'S... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INTO THAT SORT OF THING!
SHOCK
SO DULL
AND YOU, TSUKASA?


KOTO-OKA
GRRR!!
KYA HAH HAH!
THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD SAY IT
SINCE WE'RE BOTH GIRLS
SINCE WE'RE "FRIENDS"
YOU TWO ARE NOISY
YUM
YOU ATE THREE WHOLE DONUTS BY YOURSELF YESTERDAY TOO~
YOU'RE SOMEWHAT OFF TOPIC
YOU'RE THE "FOOD BEFORE ROMANCE" -TYPE...
WELL... Y'KNOW IN YOUR CASE...
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
HEY, BUDDY-BUDDY TRIO OVER THERE!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF GYM CLASS!!
YES SIR!
BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE...
THE BOND THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THE THREE OF US...
THANKS TO YOU TWO, EVEN I WAS INCLUDED IN THAT...
IT WAS ALL KOTOOKA, THOUGH!!!
BUT OUR FATES ARE INTERTWINED, AREN'T THEY?
WAS SOMETHING I HAD NO DESIRE TO BREAK...
FOR EVER...
AND EVER...
I'M KEEPING THESE FEELINGS TUCKED AWAY...
AND SO THAT'S WHY

THAT WAS...
THE VOW I'D MADE, AND YET...

HUH?
RIGHT NOW, THIS IS...!?
NO, HANG ON!
SPINNING
I NEED TO GET A HOLD OF MYSELF...!!
LET'S SEE...
THERE WAS A COMMITTEE MEETING DURING LUNCH BREAK!!
SUCH A PAIN!
AND WHEN WE GOT BACK, KOTOOKA TOLD US THAT SHE WAS GOING TO THE INFIRMARY BECAUSE SHE FELT UNDER THE WEATHER!!
AND THEN WASHIO SAID SHE'D ESCORT HER!!
AND SO I CAME TO SEE HOW THINGS WERE DOING...!!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME
I'M SURE, GASH
MY EYES MUST'VE BEEN PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!
HAHAHA
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA TO GO PEEKING UP SOMEONE'S NOSTRILS, Y'KNOW!!
WA-SHI
THAT WAS...
A KISS, WASN'T IT...!?
HUU UUHH HHHH HHH !?
ZZ...
AND THEN

MMM
O...
WHAT~? SO NOISY...
ARCH...

WA-SHIO...

I WAS UP LATE AGAIN LAST NIGHT ON THE PHONE WITH MU-TAN- ♡
SORRY! I JUST HADN'T GOTTEN ENOUGH SLEEP-
DID YOU COME TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING?

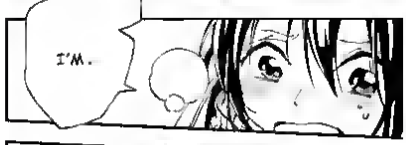
AH-
TSU-KASA?

I'D PROMISED MUU-TAN
AH!
SORRY! I'LL WAIT FOR MY BOYFRIEND ON MY OWN!
GO ON AHEAD~
.....
SHIRA-TORI.
WHA WHAT DO I DO
THIS IS KINDA AWK-WARD.
COULD IT BE...
I'M SORRY
THAT GROSSED YOU OUT, DIDN'T IT.

YOUR "FRIEND"...!!

!!
BUT...
WE'RE BOTH GIRLS, THOUGH
WH-
WHY THE HECK WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

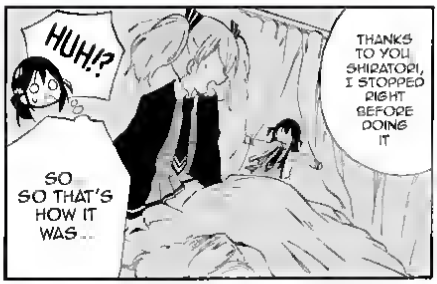
YEAH, WELL SO WHAT!!!


AFTER ALL,
I'M.

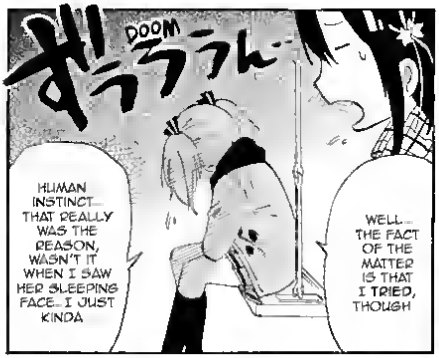
WHEN IT COMES TO WASHIO...

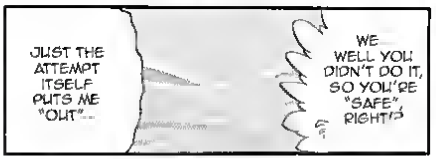
GASP

I'M...
SUCH A CHEATER...
BUT... NO MATTER WHAT I DID, IT WAS NEVER ANY GOOD...
I TRIED TO THINK ABOUT THINGS NORMALLY, TOO...
TO BE HONEST, I'D INTENDED TO GIVE UP
.....
"M
THAT MIGHT JUST BE THE SORT OF THING LOVE IS...
WHAT?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD YOUR FIRST LOVE, SHIRATORI, AND YET HERE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IT
SOMEONE WANTED A DISCUSSION, SO THAT'S WHAT I'M FREAKIN' DOING!
HAH HAH
SORRY, SORRY!
.....
WASHIO IS HER USUAL SELF


HUH!?
SO SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
THANKS TO YOU, SHIRATORI, I STOPPED RIGHT BEFORE DOING IT

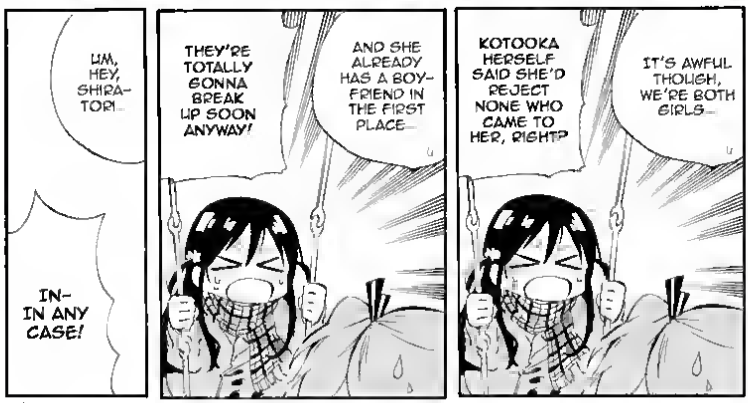
BUT I WONDER, WAS IT REALLY SUCH A WISE DECISION TO KISS HER WHILE SHE WAS ASLEEP?
YOU'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS GUTS!!
HAHAHA
POP
I DIDN'T


DOOM
HUMAN INSTINCT... THAT REALLY WAS THE REASON, WASN'T IT WHEN I SAW HER SLEEPING FACE... I JUST KINDA
WELL... THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT I TRIED, THOUGH


JUST THE ATTEMPT ITSELF PUTS ME "OUT"...
WE- WELL YOU DIDN'T DO IT, SO YOU'RE "SAFE", RIGHT!?

BOTH OF YOU ARE PRECIOUS TO ME
KOTOOKA AS WELL AS SHIRATORI
BUT WE'RE A TRIO, RIGHT?
EVEN IF THIS GETS EXPOSED SOMEHOW, THERE'S NO WAY THINGS WILL BECOME AWKWARD BETWEEN US

BLUSH
カアアアア
HUH?
GYA!
I'M AN IDIOT!!
I REALLY AM IN LOVE AFTER ALL...
SLIPS OUT
SHE'S THINKING OF ME TOO...
SPINNING
SPINNING
SPINNING
SPINNING
"I I-I-I REALLY AM IN LOVE AFTER ALL"
I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY!!!


UM, HEY, SHIRATORI...
IN- IN ANY CASE!
THEY'RE TOTALLY GONNA BREAK UP SOON ANYWAY!
AND SHE ALREADY HAS A BOYFRIEND IN THE FIRST PLACE...
KOTOOKA HERSELF SAID SHE'D REJECT NONE WHO CAME TO HER, RIGHT?
IT'S AWFUL THOUGH, WE'RE BOTH GIRLS...

I'M
WASHIO'S ALLY!

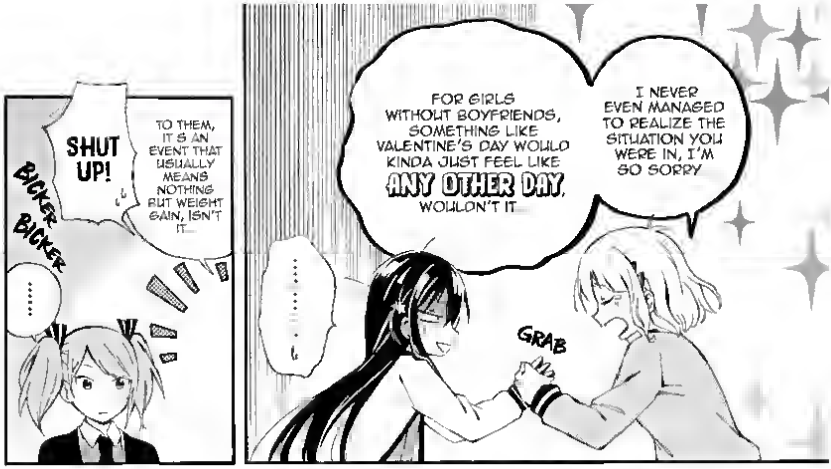
I'M AN IDIOT!!
SERIOUSLY!
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING HELPING HER...!?
PEEK!
AH
NEXT WEEK IS VALENTINE'S DAY!
YOU SHOULD TAKE THE PLUNGE AND GIVE HER SOME OF HER FAVORITE CHOCOLATES OR SOMETHING!

WASHIO?
WA...
GIGGLE

VALENTINE'S DAY, HUH...
IT'S NOTHING
GOOD MORNING, YOU TWO!
NOW, WHAT DO I HAVE HERE?
KOTO-OKA...
THAT'S A RELIEF! THOUGH FROM ME, I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS!
FOR REAL?
CHATTER
CHOCO-LATE?
IT'S STEAMED CHOCOLATE CAKE!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME EVER MAKING IT THOUGH, HOW IS IT?
OH! IT'S TASTY!!
CHATTER
BLAH!
BLAH!

TO ME AS WELL, SHE'S A MUCH-LOVED...
"FRIEND"
...
IN THE MIDST OF BRUSHING UP YOUR SKILLS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?
RIGHT ON THE MARK! ♡
SHE ENJOYS MAKING SWEETS, SO SHE'LL OFTEN WHIP THINGS UP AT HOME, BRING THEM TO SCHOOL, AND GIVE THEM TO ME AND WASHIO
IF THE FEEDBACK IS COMING FROM YOU GUYS, THAT'S A SOURCE IN WHICH I'M ABLE TO TRUST
AND IF I DID MESS UP, DON'T GO EASY ON ME! SAY IT TASTES AWFUL!
HUH, SO WE'RE THE POISON TESTERS THEN
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD PUT IT THAT WAY
AND OF COURSE, I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL WITH YOUR FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES AS WELL! ♡
I'D PREFER SOMETHING LIKE G■D■VA, THOUGH
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD AFFORD HELLA PRICEY STUFF LIKE THAT!!

THEM BEING MADE BY HAND SHOULD BE WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY!!
GEEZ !!
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, TSUKASA?
TSU-KASA?
HEY, KOTO-OKA.
Y'KNOW, LATELY...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN...
TALKING ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND A BIT TOO MUCH?
GASP
THA..THAT REMARK... SOMEHOW SOUNDED INCREDIBLY BITTER...!!
TSU-KASA


SHUT UP!
TO THEM, IT'S AN EVENT THAT USUALLY MEANS NOTHING BUT WEIGHT GAIN, ISN'T IT...
BICKER BICKER
.....
FOR GIRLS WITHOUT BOYFRIENDS, SOMETHING LIKE VALENTINE'S DAY WOULD KINDA JUST FEEL LIKE ANY OTHER DAY, WOULDN'T IT...
I NEVER EVEN MANAGED TO REALIZE THE SITUATION YOU WERE IN, I'M SO SORRY
.....
GRAB

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD TODAY, SHIRATORI

IS... IS THAT REALLY THE CASE?
AND KOTOOKA IS ACTING THE SAME WAY SHE ALWAYS DOES...
COULD THAT HAVE BEEN

AND THAT JUST NOW WASN'T THE ONLY TIME...

EH...
WASHIO, JUST THE OTHER DAY
I'M GONNA BUY PRE-MADE.
MAKING HANDMADE CHOCOLATES IS SUCH A PAIN
IN SPITE OF HAVING SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SHE WANTS TO MAKE THEM BY HAND!?

"THEM BEING MADE BY HAND SHOULD BE WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY!"
I STILL WANT KOTO-OKA TO BE HAPPY ABOUT RECEIVING THEM
EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT A THING
BUT
THE IDEA OF NOT DOING ANYTHING MORE AT ALL FOR HER DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME EITHER
DON'T TELL ME SHE PLANS TO
CONF...
AH
IT'S NOT LIKE I PLAN ON CONFESSING MY LOVE TO HER OR WHATEVER
AH...
I'M FEELING KIND OF UNEASY, SOMEHOW
ALL RIGHT, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! SINCE I REALLY LOVE TO EAT!
WHAT KOTO-OKA SAID.
BUT I'VE NEVER MADE STUFF LIKE SWEETS BEFORE!
THAT SAID, I NEVER REALLY ASKED KOTOOKA TO SHOW ME HOW EITHER
LET'S KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM KOTO-OKA
UNDER-STOOD!!
I GUESS SHE REALLY TOOK IT TO HEART...

THIS CRUMBLING DRYNESS IS JUST AWFUL
GRIND... GRIND... GRIND...
I WONDER WHY JUST MELTING AND HARDENING AGAIN CAUSES IT TO REINCARNATE AS SOMETHING WORSE
DOOM
ううん...
WASHIO WAS GIVING IT HER ALL,
AND SHE WAS DOING IT FOR KOTOOKA'S SAKE
SHIRATORI
THERE'S STILL A WHOLE WEEK AFTER THIS!
AS LONG AS WE KEEP PRACTICING FROM HERE ON OUT, WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!!
I UNDERSTOOD ALL THIS, AND YET...
WITH BALSAMIC VINEGAR
THIS IS THE ONE THAT WAS FLAVORED
YOU'RE MAKING QUITE THE FACE THERE..
EURRGGH
TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT FORGET THIS FAILURE, WE MUST EXPERIENCE ITS FLAVOR FIRST-HAND AND BEAR THAT IN MIND!
ギャハハハ
GYAHAHA

THE TWO OF US JUST BEING TOGETHER WAS SO MUCH FUN!
I'M TOTALLY CRAVING SOME-THING SALTY!
YOU WENT AND BOUGHT POTATO CHIPS ON YOUR OWN, I SEE
CHATTER CHATTER
WHOSE PLACE ARE WE GONNA DO IT AT TODAY?
MY DAD'LL BE ROAM-ING IN HIS PAJAMAS, BUT MY PLACE IS FINE.
スーパーコ
SUPER MARKET
2月13日
Feb 13th
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KOTOOKA-SAN?
……

SINCE I HAVE PREPARATIONS OF MY OWN TO DO, I'LL BE HEADING HOME FIRST
AS EXPECTED, THE DAY BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY HAS THE WHOLE CAMPUS FULL OF RESTLESS ENERGY
CHATTER
VALENTINE'S DAY SHOULD JUST DIE
CHATTER
YEAH YEAH
MY CHOCOLATE IS IN YOUR HANDS!!!
WHATCHA GONNA DO TOMORROW!!!
?
OHH!
I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT MINE, SO I'M GOING STRAIGHT HOME
VALENTINE'S DAY PREP OR SOMETHING?
...SO WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO TODAY?
MY DAD LOOKS FORWARD TO IT EVERY YEAR!!
I'M GONNA HEAD HOME QUICKLY SO I CAN MAKE CHOCOLATE WITH MY MOM!
WHISPER
...IT CAN'T BE HELPED, THOUGH... SO WHOSE PLACE ARE WE DOING IT AT TODAY?
WHISPER
MAN, I REALLY CAN'T STAND JUST BRAZENLY LYING LIKE THIS...
WHISPER
THAT WAS A LIE AS WELL?
MY MOM'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE MAKE CHOCOLATES FOR DAD
BYE BYE!
'KAY THEN.
SEE YA TOMORROW!

OH!
OH HHH HH!
.....
THEY CAME OUT SO WELL!
AND THEY TASTE AMAZING, TOO!
SPARKLE
NOM
NOM
IF THESE ARE WHAT YOU GIVE TO KOTOOKA, IT'S GONNA MAKE HER CRAZY HAPPY!
WHY IS IT...
BUT BEFORE THAT, SHE'S GONNA BE PRETTY SURPRISED ISN'T SHE?

IF IT HAD TO BE A GIRL, THEN WHY...
...WASN'T IT ME, I WONDER...
...THAT WASHIO IS IN LOVE WITH KOTOOKA?
I LOVE HER TOO,
IN THE "FRIEND" SENSE.
WHEN WAS IT THAT WASHIO CAME TO SEE HER AS MORE THAN A "FRIEND"?
Ptoo!
HMM.
I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN IT WAS, BUT
DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY THE THREE OF US FIRST MET?
SHIRA-TORI,
EH!?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT LAST BIT, RIGHT!?
I- I SPOKE OUT LOUD AGAIN..!!
EH?
WAAAA...

ALSO THE DAY I'D MET KOTOOKA
SINCE I HAVE THIS WITH ME, MIND IF I HELP?
UM, EXCUSE ME–
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BUTTON
UH UHM..
OH RIGHT, THAT DAY WAS..
Y– YEAH.
AT THAT TIME..
I COULDN'T TEAR MY EYES AWAY FROM HER BEAUTIFUL FINGERTIPS
THAT'S AMAZING! I CAN'T EVEN MAKE THE KNOT AT THE END OF THE THREAD!
YOU'RE ABLE TO REATTACH BUTTONS!?
THAT'S PRETTY NATURAL FOR A GIRL, ISN'T IT?

AT ANY RATE, YOU'RE VERY KIND, Y'KNOW.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST WATCHING, SOMEHOW IT FELT LIKE I'D GOTTEN LUCKY!
THINKING BACK ON IT NOW...
I GUESS I'VE BEEN AWARE OF IT FROM THAT MOMENT ON.
AND KOTO-OKA PROB-ABLY CAN'T EITHER
BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY GOES, SO IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL
—SO KOTO-OKA SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HUH
AH, WELL— I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T REMEMBER, SHIRATORI
I MEAN, EVEN I CAN'T RECALL THE ENTIRE CONVER-SATION WE HAD BACK THEN

THE OTHER SIDE DOESN'T GIVE A HOOT.
THINKING OF SOMETHING AS SPECIAL IS THE SORT OF THING THAT ONLY APPLIES TO YOU
THAT'S RIGHT.
...THAT REALLY IS JUST THE WAY IT GOES.
IF YOU COME NOW, I'LL INCLUDE BARLEY TEA!
I'LL BUY A MEAT BUN FOR YOU, SO COME ALONG WITH ME, YO!
AND YOU SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO BLITHELY FOLLOW ALONG
SUSPICIOUS
WHAT FREAKIN' AGE AM I?
YAY!
THEY SAY A PERVERT HAS BEEN SHOWING UP IN THIS AREA RECENTLY
TOO BAD
THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR YOU TO SEE ME ALL THE WAY TO THE STATION.
JEEZ, DON'T ACTUALLY EXPECT THAT OF ME!!
YOU KNOW.
I HAVEN'T PROPERLY EXPRESSED MY THANKS YET, HAVE I
FOR THE THING WITH KOTO-OKA—
AND FOR THIS CHOCOLATE MAKING STUFF— FOR ALL OF IT.

BA-DUM...
THANK YOU.
SHIRATORI, I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
"FRIEND"...
!
IF I JUST WENT BACK TO BEING A "FRIEND"...
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE KINDS OF FEELINGS ANYMORE, I GUESS...

...KOTO-OKA!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
RIGHT BACK AT YOU
PANIC PANIC
UH HHH HH...
THAT IS...
EH...
AH, NO...
UM, WELL...
YOU WERE JUST GONNA HEAD HOME—
WASN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID?
SHOCK
SHOCK
.....
HM? WHAT IS IT?
WELL, EITHER WAY—

I WAS AWARE THAT YOU TWO HAD BEEN SECRETLY HANGING OUT AND STUFF
WELL, I'M SURE I WAS PRETTY ANNOYING
WHAT YOU YOURSELVES HAD TOLD ME?
WASN'T THAT...
WAI...
PLEASE WAIT, KOTO-OKA!
WELL, THAT BEING THE CASE, COME TOMORROW IT'D BE BEST IF I JOINED ANOTHER GROUP
CRAB
EXCLU...!?
SHOCK...
I GUESS IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT I'D END UP BEING EXCLUDED.

AH...
DASH

"BOTH OF YOU ARE PRECIOUS TO ME"
"KOTOOKA AS WELL AS SHIRATORI"
KO.. KOTO-OKA'S GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
QUICKLY, LET'S GO CHASE AFT...
DASH
KOTO-OKA...
HAA
HAA
HAA
THAT..
WHOOSH
SHIRA-TORI!?

WHICH WAY DID SHE GO...!?
TO BE ACTING LIKE IDIOTS AND LAUGHING TOGETHER AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT
I WANT FOR THE THREE OF US
...IS HOW I FEEL TOO
HAA
HAA
JUST WAIT UP...
HAA

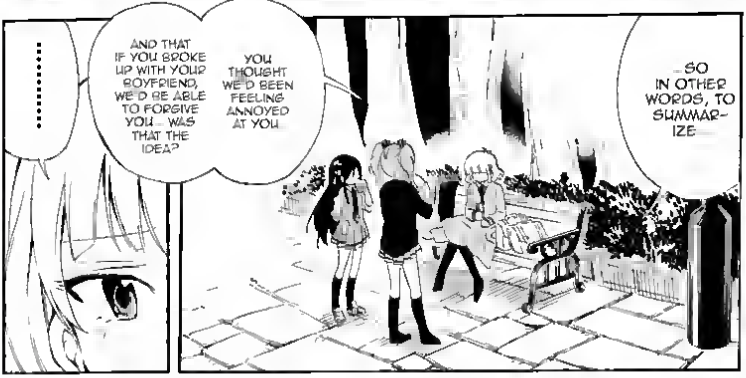
AND FEELING SAD WHENEVER I'M AROUND WASHIO, THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS I DON'T WANT TO DO!
SO STUFF LIKE MAKING BITTER REMARKS TOWARD KOTOOKA...

I HATE THEM BOTH.
NGH
THESE FEELINGS I HAVE
THE ME THAT ACTS THIS WAY...

HOW THE HELL
DID I BECOME INCAPABLE OF BEING A "FRIEND" !?
!?
KOTO-OKA...
DON'T TELL ME THAT GUY IS...!!
LATELY, THERE'S BEEN A PERVERT
DASH!
ダッ
HAA
HAA

HAH-HAH-
I'M SORRY,
I FELL BEHIND ON THE CHASE
WASHI-O!?
DING
!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KOTO-OKA!?
HUH!?
WASHIO, THINK THIS GUY MIGHT BE THE PERVERT?
NO
THAT'S
MUU-TAN
YOU
BROKE
TWO
UP
?

THIS IS THE AREA THAT GUY LIVES IN.
SO I MADE MY WAY OVER HERE AND TOLD HIM WE WERE BREAKING UP
THEN HE SAID "WHY, OF ALL DAYS, WOULD YOU PICK THE NIGHT BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY TO DO THIS!?"
HE WAS PERSISTENT, SO I RAN AWAY FROM HIM
THEN I RAN INTO YOU TWO
IF YOU NEEDED TO ESCAPE FROM THE OTHER PARTY LIKE THAT, THEN THEY DEFINITELY WERE


SO IN OTHER WORDS, TO SUMMARIZE—
YOU THOUGHT WE'D BEEN FEELING ANNOYED AT YOU
AND THAT IF YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, WE'D BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOU—WAS THAT THE IDEA?
.....

YEAH.
WELLING UP
だばー
HOW FREAKIN' NARROW-MINDED ARE WE!?
WE THOUGHT WE'D TRY MAKING OUR FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES BY HAND THIS YEAR, SO WE WERE JUST PRACTICING FOR THAT

.....
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I WANT WHEN IT'S BETWEEN GIRLS!
SINCE WE'RE USUALLY JUST ON THE RECEIVING END WE WANTED TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD!!
PANIC
PANIC
WE ALSO SAID WE'D MAKE IT A SURPRISE!
WE STARE——
SO INCLUDE ME THEN, PLEASE!

AND IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I THINK IT'S UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE THREE OF US TO KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER
BUT KEEPING A SECRET BETWEEN JUST TWO OF US THAT'S DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT?
...NOT REALLY
I NEVER SAID YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T HANG OUT WHENEVER I SPENT TIME WITH MY BOYFRIEND OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

SINCE YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH MUU-TAN
WE FELT IT'D BE WRONG OF US TO GET IN YOUR WAY,

WAS ANXIOUS FOR SO LONG...
KOTO-OKA...
THIS TERRIFIED ME THE WHOLE TIME
"DO TSUKASA AND NADESHIKO HATE ME, I WONDER?"

BUT...
I WOULD BE TOO, IF I WAS IN KOTOOKA'S SHOES...
...SORRY.
THE THREE OF US...
SQUEEZE
...WE'LL ALWAYS BE "FRIENDS", WON'T WE?

ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
SO,
FOR THE ISSUE AT HAND, SINCE THIS WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING, ISN'T THERE NO NEED TO ACTUALLY BREAK UP WITH MUU-TAN ..?
WAIT... THIS IS PAINFUL !?
!!!
EVEN SO,
IT'S STILL KINDA LIKE, WHO CARES, Y'KNOW?
TA-DAH!
ALL THREE OF US !?
BECAUSE EVEN WHEN WE'RE IN OUR THIRTIES, WE'LL BE SAYING "WE'RE NEVER GONNA MANAGE TO GET MARRIED, ARE WE~" WHILE TOSSING IT BACK AT DRINKING PARTIES!!
WHOA HOW REALISTIC
WHAT'S SCARY IS HOW LIKELY THAT IS!!
HA-HA-HA

WELL IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS WAS THE SORT OF THING WHERE HE'D SAID HE WANTED TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY, SO I TOLD HIM I'D GO OUT WITH HIM THAT'S THE KIND OF SITUATION THIS WAS.
SIGH
DUDE... YOU...
うぅ～ゃ～…
UUWAA
SOME-HOW, HE NEVER GOT MY HEART RACING.
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS DATING ME WITH HONESTY, HE JUST WASN'T QUITE FUN ENOUGH
OKAY,
IT'S ALL FINISHED. ♡
WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF DOING THAT SORT OF THING?
WHY NOT TAKE THIS CHANCE TO QUIT IT WITH ALL THE NON-COMMITTAL DATING?
AH!
!?
...THANK YOU.
AMAZING!! WHAT NIMBLE FINGERS!!

SWEL
YOUR FINGER!!
BLOOD!!
JUST AS YOU'D EXPECT WHILE ON THE TRAIN, MY HANDS BECAME A LITTLE CLUMSY
HOW LAME!
I HAVE A BANDAGE WITH ME!!
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
EHH?
FOR A THING LIKE THIS? IT'LL BE FINE!
IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR IT TO HEAL
THAT'S NO GOOD!!
YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!!

NOT TO YOU TWO.
WHISPER
...THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY IT.
KOTO-OKA?
AH, BUT FOR TSUKASA, DOING THE SAME WOULD BE KIND OF IMPOS-SIBLE, I GUESS
AFTER I SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO DATE THEM, THEN I CAN SAY THAT I'VE SEARCHED FOR SOMEONE I COULD POTENTIALLY COME TO LOVE THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD DO, RIGHT?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT IS MY OWN CHOICE, ISN'T IT?
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR BEING UNPOP-ULAR!
BICKER BICKER
THANK GOODNESS, THING ARE THE SAME AS EVER.
RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO AND DO KARAOKE AFTER THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S FINE THIS WAY.
WE'RE GONNA GO RIGHT NOW?
BECAUSE THIS MEANS
THAT THE THREE OF US ARE "FRIENDS"
AH!

HANG ON, I'LL GET IT NOW.
EH?
SHIRATORI
THERE'S SOME LINT STUCK TO YOUR HEAD
AH
SORRY, IT MIGHT BE FROM MY CARDIGAN
IT KINDA FEELS LIKE
PAT
IT'S BECOME EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN IT WAS BEFORE
YOUR HAIR
AND YET
I'M AN IDIOT.

IN SPITE OF IT ALL, THERE'S STILL NO WAY I CAN BRING MYSELF TO BE A "FRIEND".
Are you crying out for sympathy after all this?
Wow, what's wrong?

I HAVE A SECRET.

WELL,
ABOUT
THAT...

To be continued...

Hachimitsu Scans
~sweeter than honey~
hachimitsu-scans.blogspot.com

CH. 2

THE TEENAGE YEARS ARE A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN LOVE STORIES ARE ALWAYS BLOOMING.

AH! THE GUYS ARE DOING BASKETBALL, TOO!!

きゃ!!

I WONDER WHY THEY LOOK SO COOL WHEN THEY MOVE AROUND LIKE THAT!

I KNOW, RIGHT?

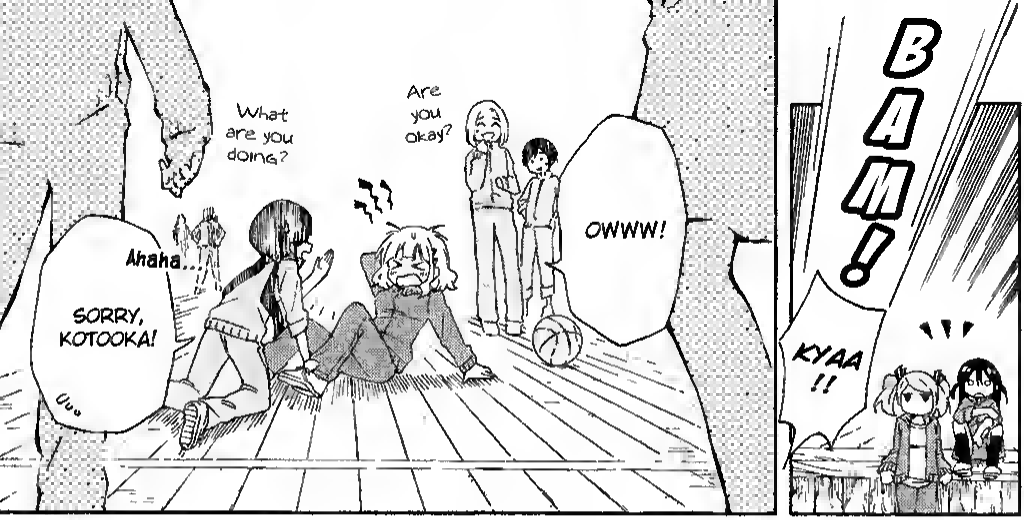
きゃ!!

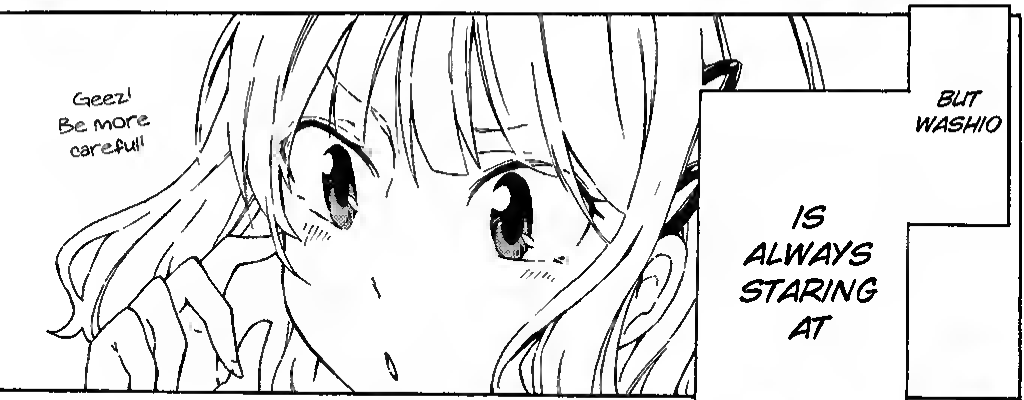
IS THERE A GUY YOU LIKE, SHIRATORI?

HUH!?

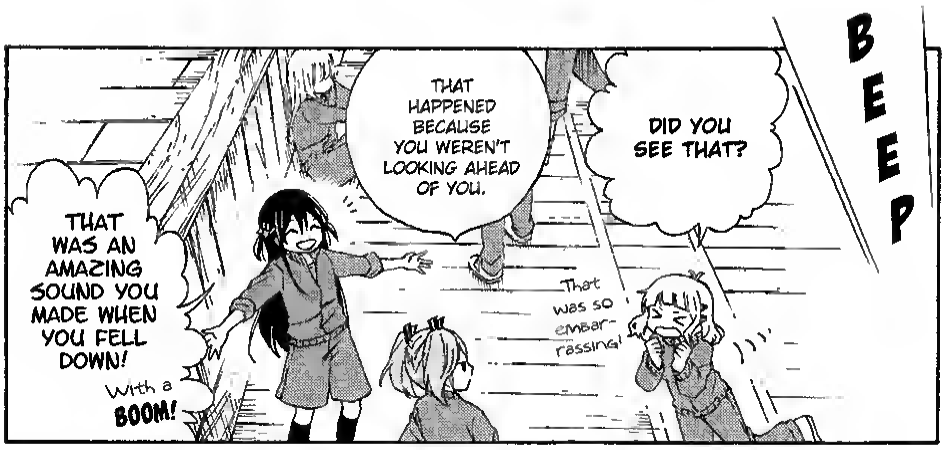
BUT I, TSUKASA SHIRATORI, CAN'T SHARE MY OWN EXPERIENCES WITH LOVE.

THEN... WHAT ABOUT YOU, WASHIO-SAN?
I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED ANY OF THE GUYS IN CLASS!
WHICH OF THE GUYS WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH?
HAHA
NOT AT ALL!
SORRY,
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN STUFF LIKE THAT.
THE REASON IS SIMPLE.
MY FRIEND NADESHIKO WASHIO
IS THE ONE I...

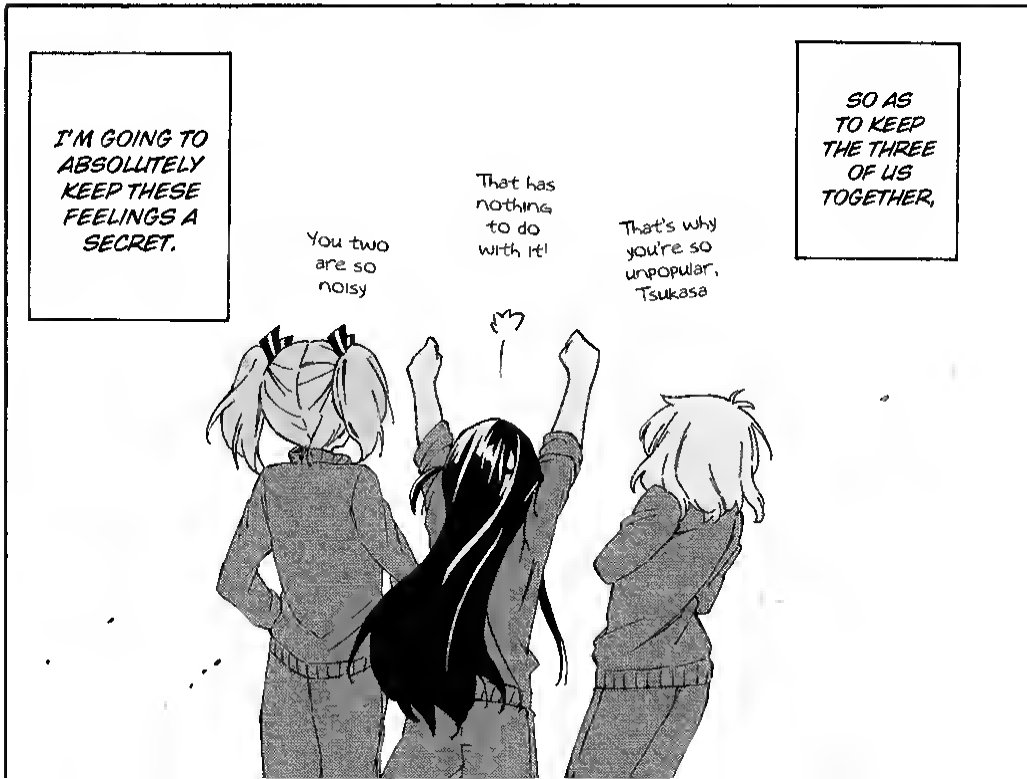

BAM!
KYAA!!
OWWW!
Are you okay?
What are you doing?
Ahaha...
SORRY, KOTOOKA!
Uuu


Geez! Be more careful!
BUT WASHIO IS ALWAYS STARING AT

MY OTHER FRIEND MIKAGE KOTOOKA.
...ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
...NOT INTERESTED?


BEEP
DID YOU SEE THAT?
That was so embarrassing!
THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T LOOKING AHEAD OF YOU.
THAT WAS AN AMAZING SOUND YOU MADE WHEN YOU FELL DOWN!
With a BOOM!

YEAH,
EH HEH HEH!
WE'RE BOTH GIRLS, SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL!
YOU'RE SO INSENSITIVE, TSUKASA!!
Stop it!


I'M GOING TO ABSOLUTELY KEEP THESE FEELINGS A SECRET.
SO AS TO KEEP THE THREE OF US TOGETHER,
You two are so noisy
That has nothing to do with it!
That's why you're so unpopular, Tsukasa

CH. 2★HEREAFTER

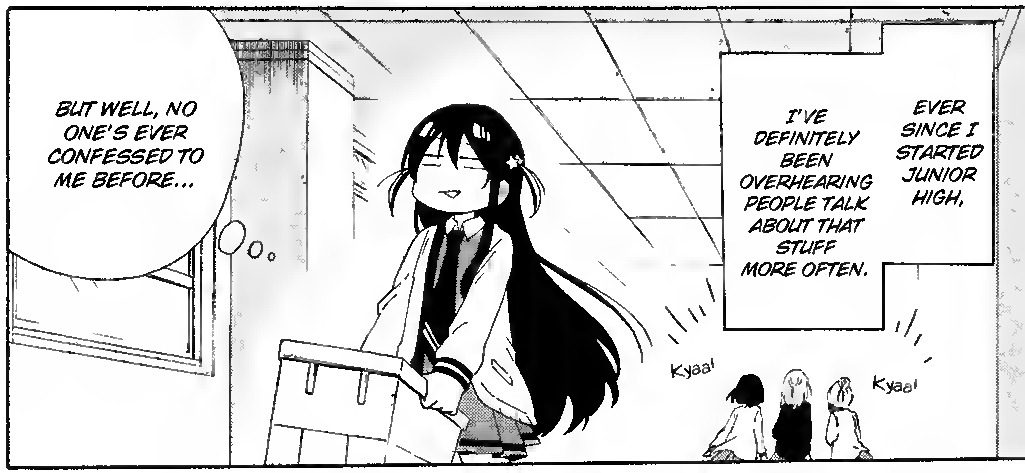
Gloom
TALKING ABOUT LOVE IS SO BOTHERSOME...
I CAN SAY FIRST HAND THAT TALKING ABOUT THAT STUFF HAS GONE UP SINCE WE STARTED JUNIOR HIGH...
ガヤガヤ...
I FEEL THE SAME WAY!
PLUS...
I can't believe they'd bring up the subject to me...
I JUST LIKE LISTENING TO OTHERS BRING UP LOVE STORIES...

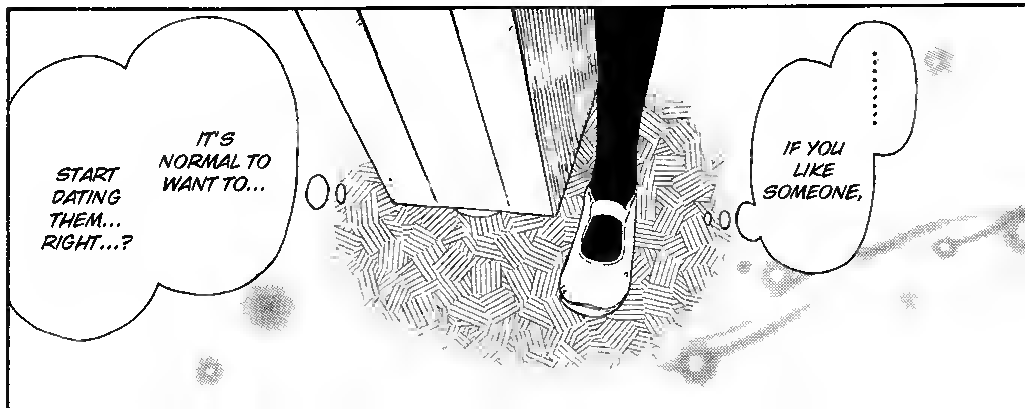
!
ABOUT MY OWN EXPERIENCES WITH LOVE, SHIRATORI.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TALK TO

ASTRONOMY ROOM
I'M GONNA DROP BY THE CLUB ROOM.
OKAY!
.....
See you later!

IT'S NOT LIKE I ASKED YOU TO GO THAT FAR...
LEAVE IT TO ME!! I'LL BE YOUR CUPID!!

...FOR AN INSTANT,
THAT MADE ME FEEL ...KIND OF... HAPPY...
Hey!...
DID YOU HEAR?
○○ AND △△ APPARENTLY STARTED DATING.
SOME GUY CONFESSED TO ×× THE OTHER DAY...


EVER SINCE I STARTED JUNIOR HIGH,
I'VE DEFINITELY BEEN OVERHEARING PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THAT STUFF MORE OFTEN.
Kyaa!
Kyaa!
BUT WELL, NO ONE'S EVER CONFESSED TO ME BEFORE...

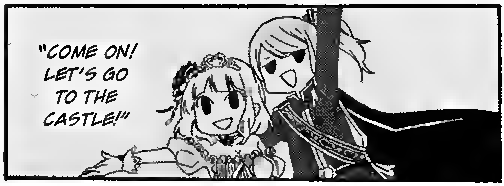

IF YOU LIKE SOMEONE,
.....
IT'S NORMAL TO WANT TO...
START DATING THEM... RIGHT...?

DATING...
"DATING"...
SOME-ONE.
WE'RE THREE LITTLE PIGS.
THREE VERY CLOSE-KNIT LITTLE PIGS.

LET'S ALL LIVE TOGETHER LIKE THIS FOREVER!
THIS IS GREAT!
YAAAY!
WE'RE HAVING PANCAKES FOR DINNER TONIGHT!
HUH?
...THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
SO I HAVE TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH A PRINCESS!!
AFTER ALL, I'M ACTUALLY A PRINCE!!
HUH!?

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR MY...
ONE AND ONLY PRINCESS!
THIS IS ME...!?
LET'S GO TO THE CASTLE!
Come on!
ALL RIGHT! I DON'T REJECT ANYONE THAT COMES ON TO ME, AFTER ALL!
.....
HEY ...!
WE'LL SEND YOU SOME GIFTS, TOO!
CLOP
CLIP
WE'LL COME BY TO SEE YOU FROM TIME TO TIME!

Uwaaaaa...
IT WAS A DREAM ...!!
AND IT WAS A REALLY STUPID ONE...
Shut up, Tsukasa!


"COME ON! LET'S GO TO THE CASTLE!"

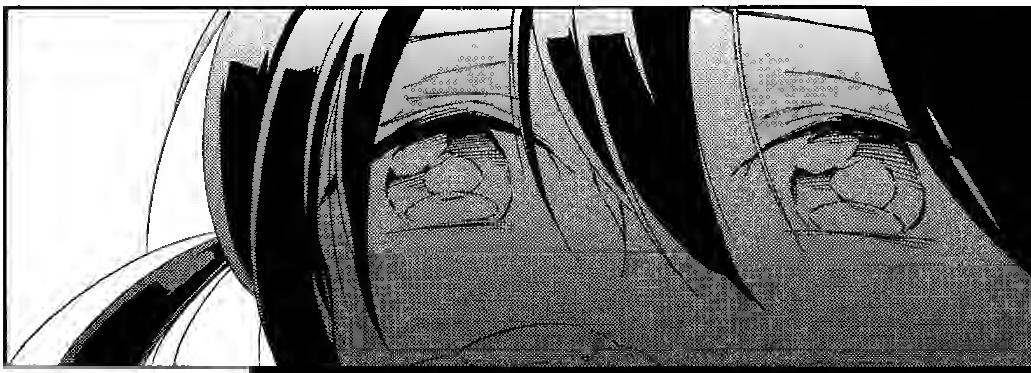
.....

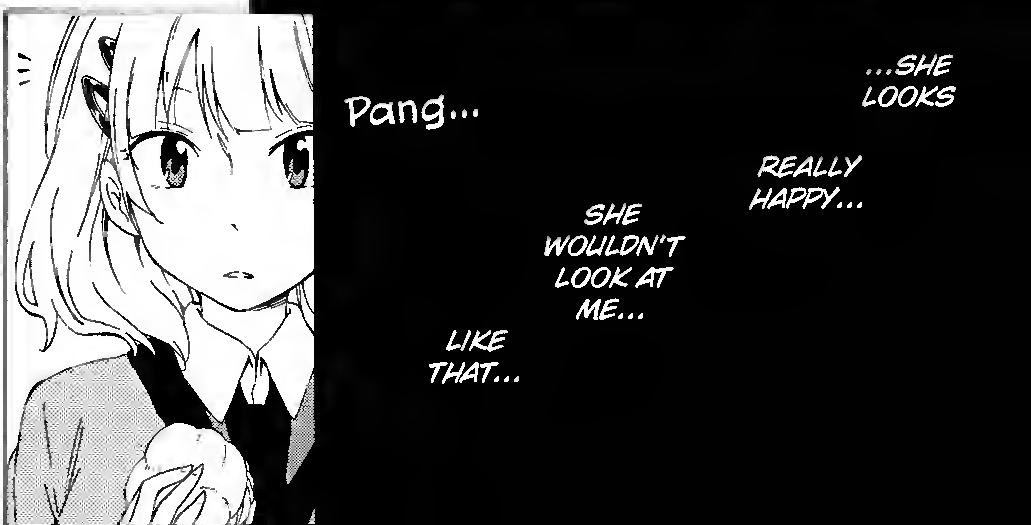
WAIT, YOU TWO!
BAM!
Chirp...
Chirp...

...THEN ...
DOES WASHIO THINK ABOUT BEING TOGETHER WITH KOTOOKA SOMEDAY?

WHAT ABOUT ME...?
TA-DA!♪
WHAT ARE THESE?
ぱかー
I WANT THIS BIG ONE!!
CREAM PUFFS! MY FAVORITE!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUCH A STRONG APPETITE.
YAAAAAY!
THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, NADESHIKO.
It's so good!
YOU LIKE GREEN TEA FLAVOR, RIGHT?

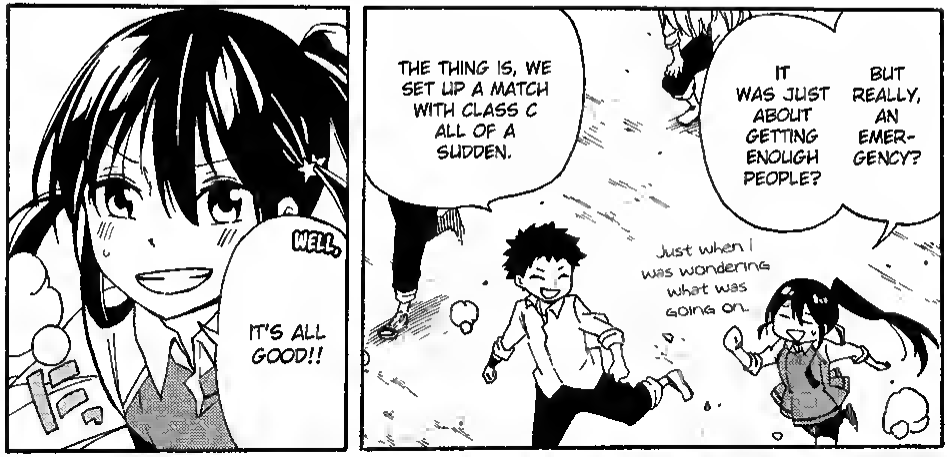
...THANKS.



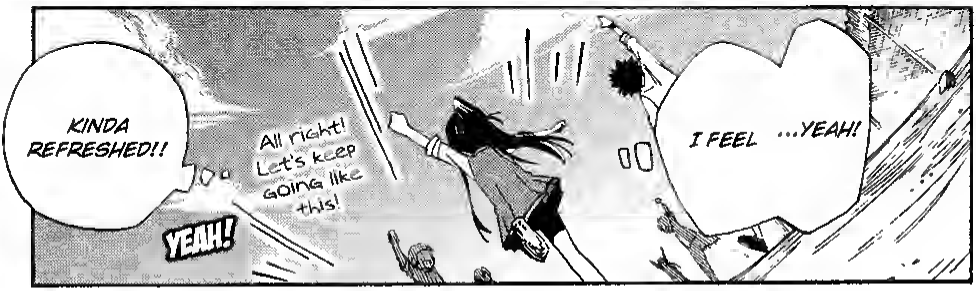

Pang...
...SHE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY...
SHE WOULDN'T LOOK AT ME... LIKE THAT...

KYAHAHAHA!
OH MY GOSH, TSU-KASA!
YOU HAVE A MUSTACHE!
SPLAT
Here's a tissue.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WAS IT SO YUMMY THAT YOU STARTED SPACING OUT? CREAM PUFFS ARE DEFINITELY MY SPECIALITY, BUT STILL!
WE...WELL, MORE OR LESS.
SHIRATORI!!
COME QUICK!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!!
!?

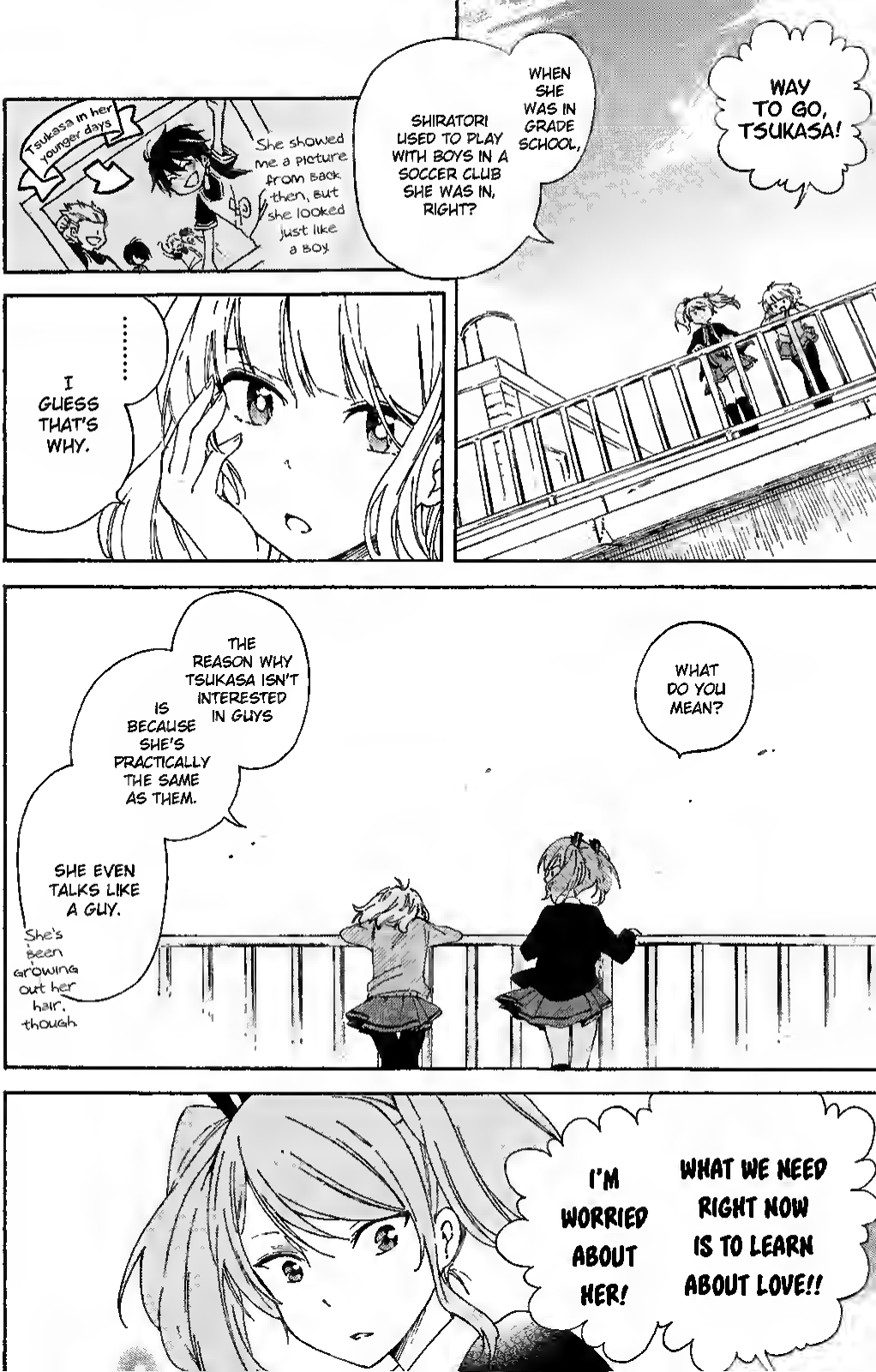
GO, SHIRATORI!!
ALL RIGHT!!
FW
SHOOOOT!!
Yaaay!
YOUR ASSIST WAS GREAT, TOO!!
GREAT SHOT!!
NICE ONE, GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM!


WELL,
IT'S ALL GOOD!!
THE THING IS, WE SET UP A MATCH WITH CLASS C ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IT WAS JUST ABOUT GETTING ENOUGH PEOPLE?
BUT REALLY, AN EMER-GENCY?
Just when I was wondering what was going on.

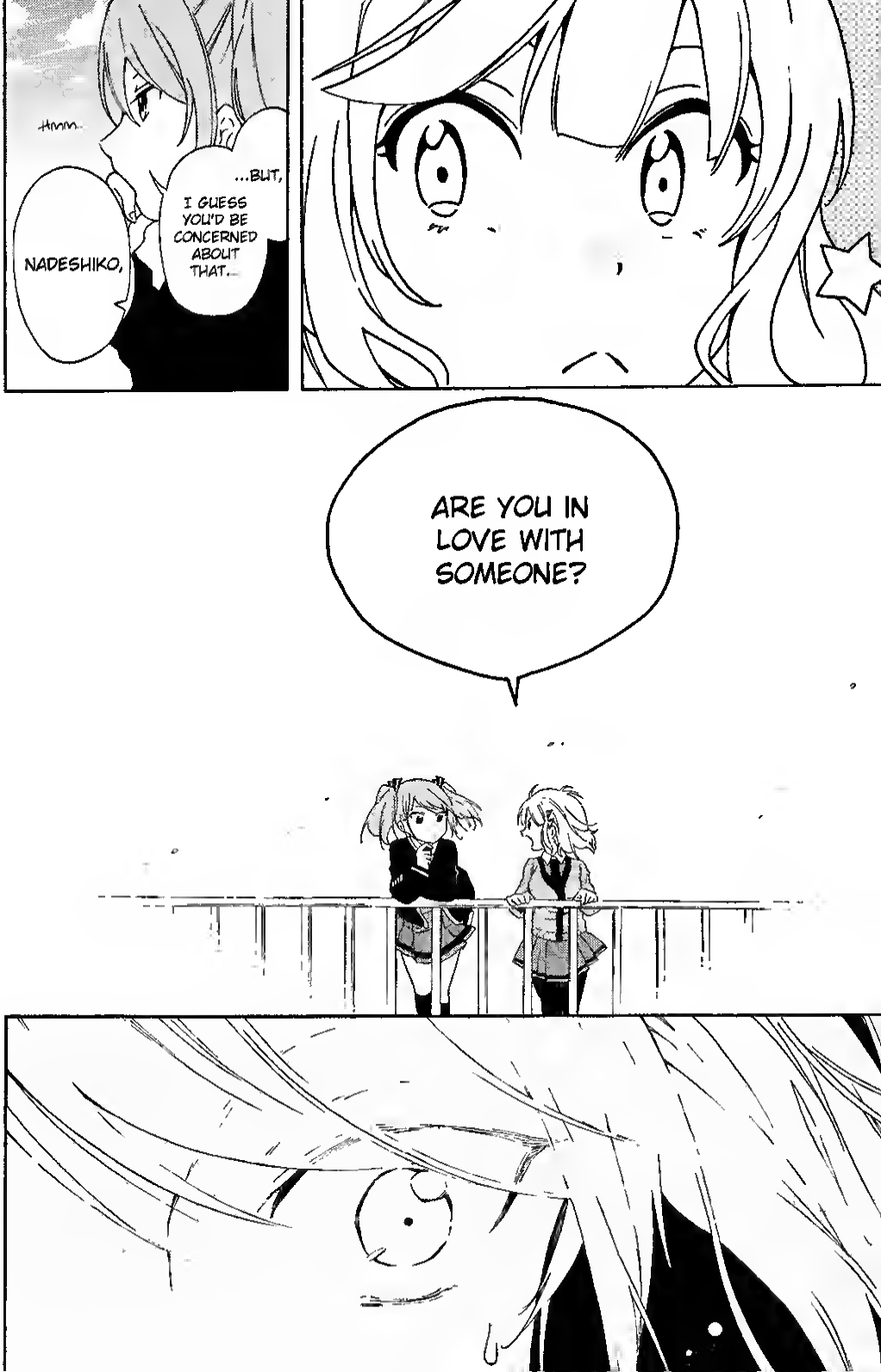
LATELY,
I'VE BEEN SO QUICK TO OVERTHINK THINGS.
...IN FACT,
I'M GLAD THAT I CAN MOVE AROUND.

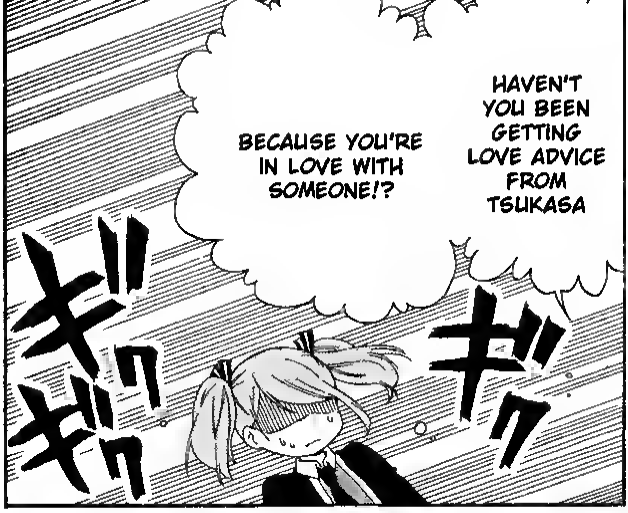

KINDA REFRESHED!!
YEAH!
All right! Let's keep going like this!
I FEEL
...YEAH!

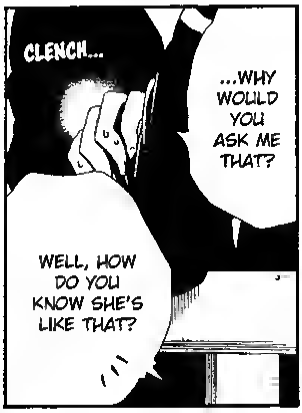
WAAAA!

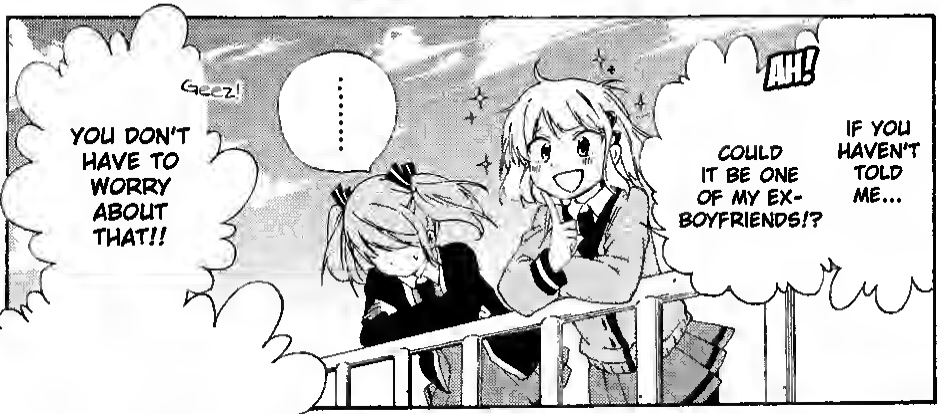

Tsukasa in her younger days
She showed me a picture from back then, but she looked just like a boy.
SHIRATORI USED TO PLAY WITH BOYS IN A SOCCER CLUB SHE WAS IN, RIGHT?
WHEN SHE WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL,
WAY TO GO, TSUKASA!
I GUESS THAT'S WHY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE REASON WHY TSUKASA ISN'T INTERESTED IN GUYS IS BECAUSE SHE'S PRACTICALLY THE SAME AS THEM.
SHE EVEN TALKS LIKE A GUY.
She's been growing out her hair, though.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER!
WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW IS TO LEARN ABOUT LOVE!!

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
.....
HUH?
SHIRA-TORI FULLY KNOWS
WHAT IT MEANS
TO CARE FOR SOMEONE.
All right! I'll pass it to you!!

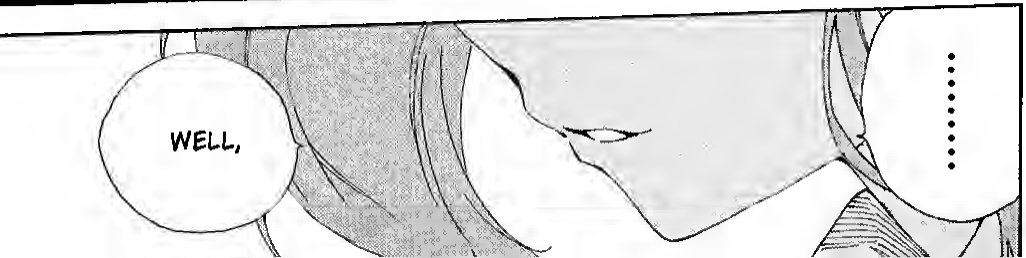

Hmm...
NADESHIKO,
...BUT, I GUESS YOU'D BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT...
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE?

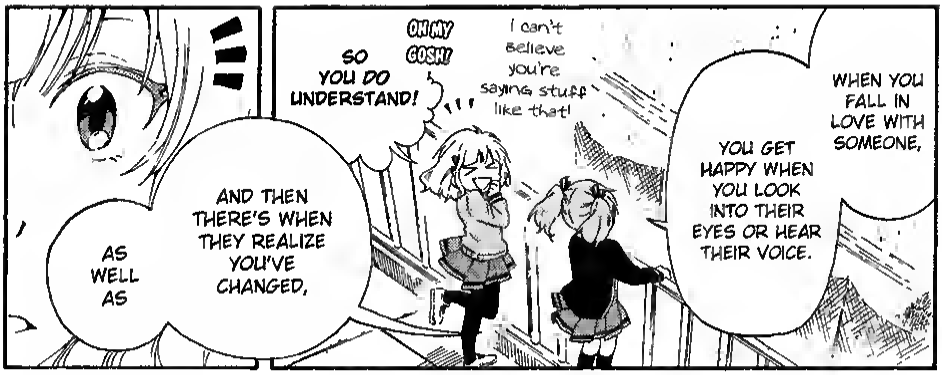

BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE!?
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN GETTING LOVE ADVICE FROM TSUKASA
ギク
ギク

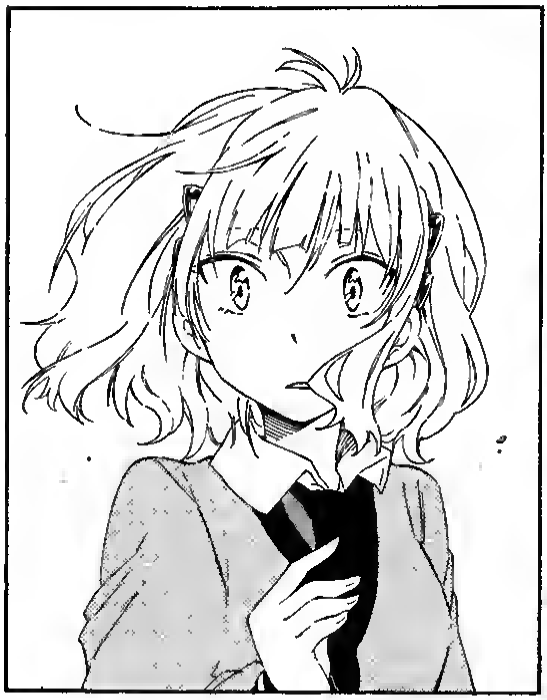

CLENCH...
...WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT?
WELL, HOW DO YOU KNOW SHE'S LIKE THAT?


Geez!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!!
.....
AH!
COULD IT BE ONE OF MY EX-BOYFRIENDS!?
IF YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME...

I'LL HELP YOU OUT!!


WELL,
.....


WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE,
YOU GET HAPPY WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THEIR EYES OR HEAR THEIR VOICE.
OH MY GOSH!
I can't believe you're saying stuff like that!
SO YOU DO UNDERSTAND!
AND THEN THERE'S WHEN THEY REALIZE YOU'VE CHANGED,
AS WELL AS



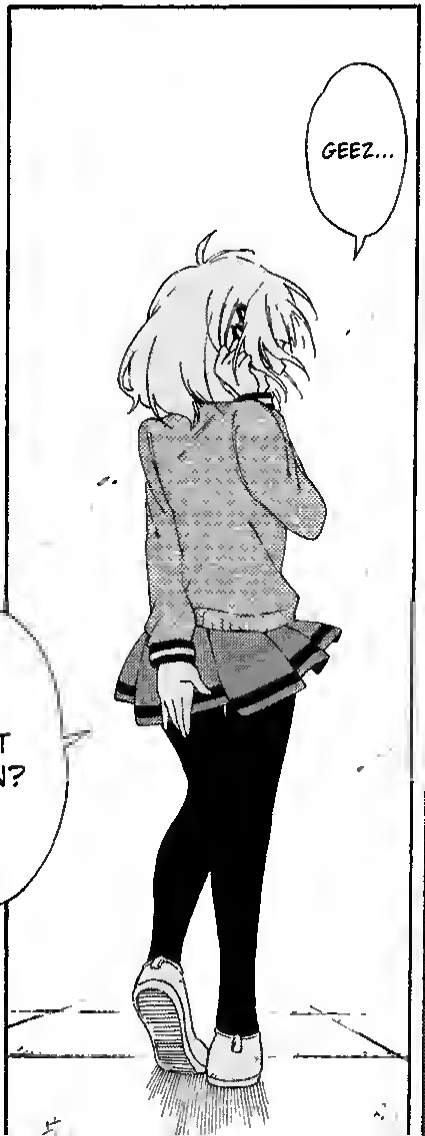
WHEN THEY REMEMBER WHAT THINGS YOU LIKE.

.....
...WHA-
...ISN'T STUFF LIKE THAT
STANDARD?
SHIRATORI AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT BEFORE.
...HUH?
Standard?
I FIGURED THAT YOU COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT LOVE IS AS LONG AS YOU JUST LOOK AT LYRICS THAT OFTEN SHOW UP IN LOVE SONGS.
EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED IT YOURSELF,
WHAT!?
SO SHIRATORI AND I ARE ALREADY MASTERS OF LOVE.
AS IF!
Besides, you only listen to enka, right?
DING
DONG
DING
DONG

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO, YOU KNOW!!!

Hah...
WHAT A WASTE OF GETTING MY HOPES UP!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF YOUR YOUTH ENDS BEFORE YOU KNOW IT?
I'm going back to the classroom!!

THAT AGAIN?


GEEZ...

I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED.

PRETTY MUCH.
ガヤガヤ
ガヤ

ARE YOU CRAZY!?
SO YOU WERE SO ENGROSSED IN IT THAT YOUR UNIFORM ENDED UP LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU SOME GRADE SCHOOLER!?
...YES.
ボロ...
GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM AND GET CHANGED, OKAY!?
...OKAY...
WE HAVE CLASS IN ANOTHER ROOM NEXT PERIOD, SO I BROUGHT YOUR STUFF, TOO...
たったったったっ

WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FUN COMPARED TO CLUB ACTIVITIES, SO I LIKED IT A LOT.
DOING STUFF LIKE PLAYING SOCCER DURING RECESS
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN DOING STUFF LIKE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
I ENDED UP GETTING CARRIED AWAY...
MAN...
ドドド
Giggle
Giggle
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL IN JUNIOR HIGH.
THE GIRLS AND BOYS OFTEN PLAYED TOGETHER IN GRADE SCHOOL,
!

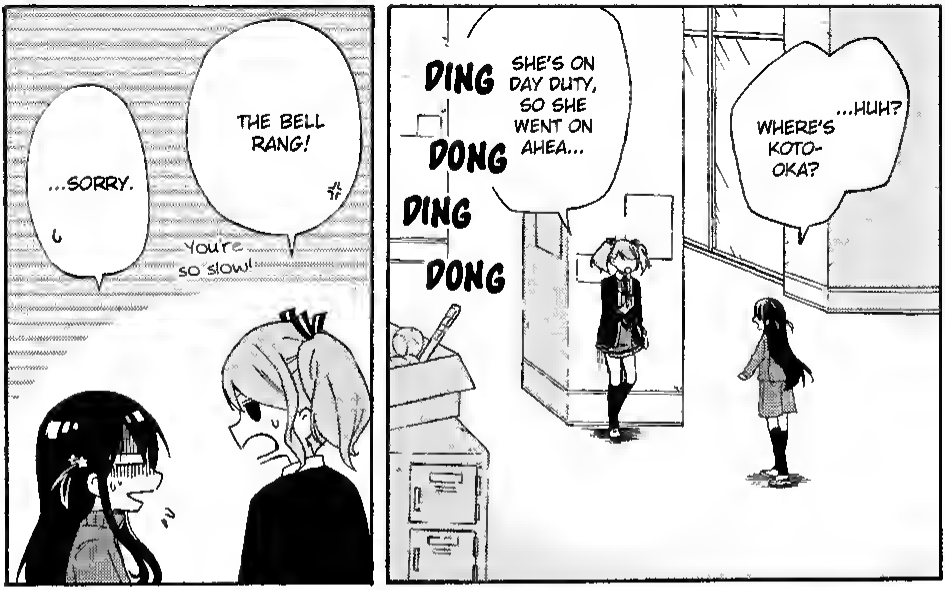
AH!
I-IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS JUST WATCHING US...
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH!? NO WAY!
THE BELL'S ABOUT TO RING, SO LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.
O-OKAY!
.....

WHOOOA!
THAT'S MY FIRST TIME... SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...!
SCHOOL ISN'T A PLACE FOR YOU TO FLIRT!

THOSE TWO WERE DATING, RIGHT?
DATING...
THEY WERE DEFINITELY OLDER THAN ME...

ARE YOU KIDDING ME...!?
EVEN THOUGH I FINALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT,
THAT MADE ME THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN!!!
!

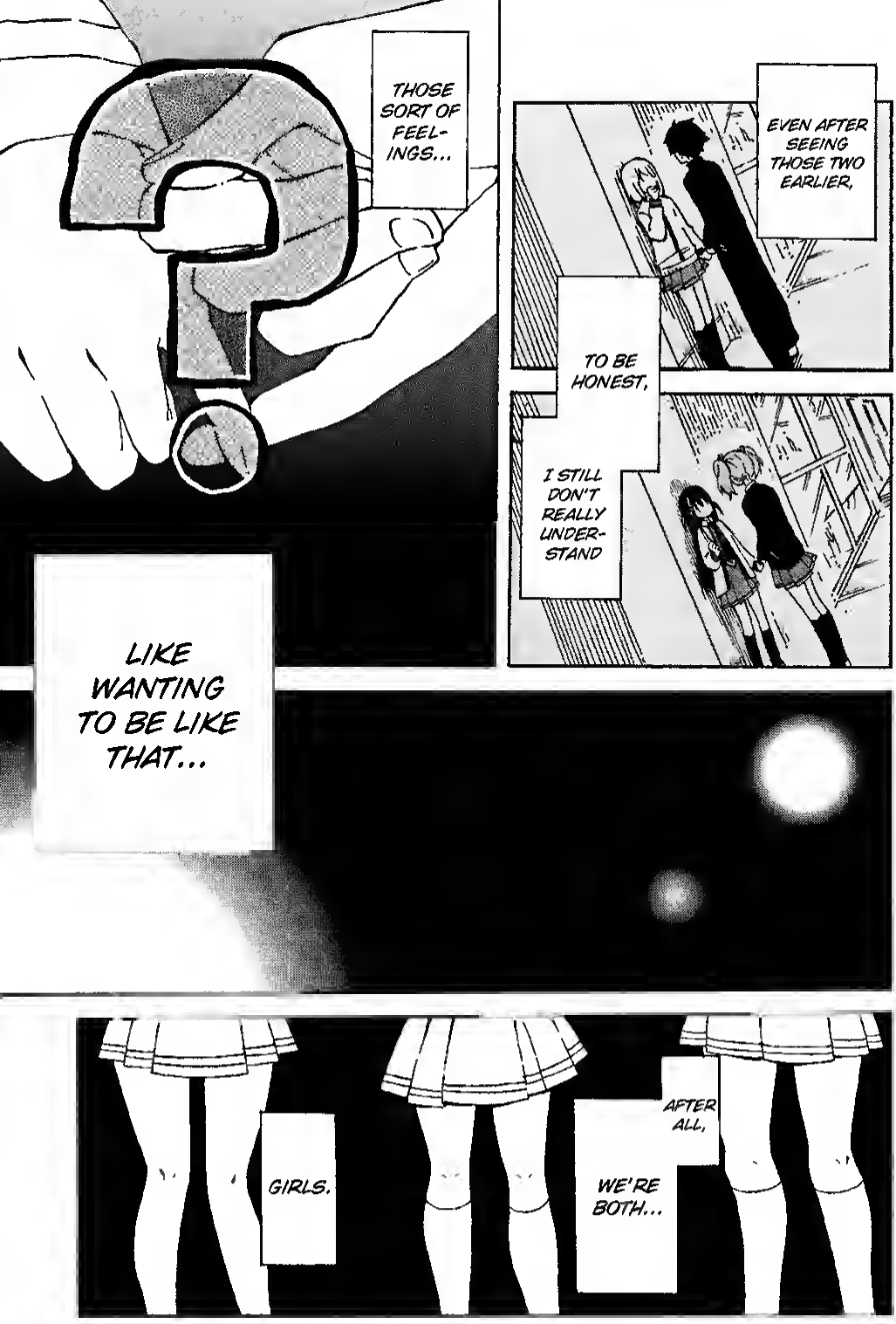
...ABOUT WHAT
WASHIO IS THINKING...


THE BELL RANG!
...SORRY.
You're so slow!
DING DONG DING DONG
SHE'S ON DAY DUTY, SO SHE WENT ON AHEA...
...HUH? WHERE'S KOTO-OKA?

HUH?
We might as well take our time.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
...WELL, WHAT-EVER.

WHAT!?
KOTOOKA ALMOST FOUND OUT!?

I GLOSSED OVER IT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
BUT IF SHE BRINGS IT UP AGAIN, CAN YOU KEEP OUR STORIES STRAIGHT?
LYRICS FROM LOVE SONGS...
COULDN'T YOU HAVE THOUGHT UP A MORE CLEVER WAY TO GLOSS OVER IT?
Besides, Kotooka is too sharp~
A more clever way of glossing over it... Hmm...
"SHIRATORI FULLY KNOWS
...SO WASHIO
WHAT IT MEANS TO CARE FOR SOMEONE."
THINKS ABOUT ME
LIKE THAT.
Music
...BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHAT COMES AFTER THAT.


THOSE SORT OF FEEL-INGS...
EVEN AFTER SEEING THOSE TWO EARLIER,
TO BE HONEST,
I STILL DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND
LIKE WANTING TO BE LIKE THAT...
GIRLS.
AFTER ALL,
WE'RE BOTH...

BEYOND CARING FOR THEM.
WHEN YOU START "DATING" SOMEONE?
WHAT CHANGES
EVERYONE DECIDE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?
HOW DOES...
HUH?
HOW TO GLOSS OVER IT WITH KOTOOKA.
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AH... THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT!
AHHHH!
AH!
I KNOW.
I GUESS
I COULD HAVE JUST TOLD HER THAT I UNDERSTAND BECAUSE I ONCE LIKED A GUY.

IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LIE
.....
WHEN IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
To me
UH, SERIOUSLY!
IF IT'S ABOUT THE PAST, SHE WON'T FIND OUT EVEN IF IT'S A LIE!
You made things so complicated!
That's a crazy face you're making.
WHAAAT!?
WHEN!?
WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ALL THIS TIME!?
WHAT'S THE POINT IN TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S OVER AND DONE WITH?
WH...WHAT WAS HE LIKE!?
Classes are going on so quiet

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
Lame
Umm
HE ALWAYS WORE A T-SHIRT WITH A PICTURE OF TAKOYAKI ON IT.
...SO THEN...
WASHIO'S FIRST LOVE WASN'T KOTOOKA...?
.....
ACTU-ALLY,
FORGET WHAT I SAID.
!
WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART?

...I GUESS I JUST DON'T WANT KOTOOKA TO EVER KNOW ABOUT THAT.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S OKAY WITH LETTING ME KNOW
SHE DOESN'T WANT KOTOOKA TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

DOES THIS MEAN
THAT WASHIO IS THINKING ABOUT HER FUTURE
WITH KOTOOKA ...?

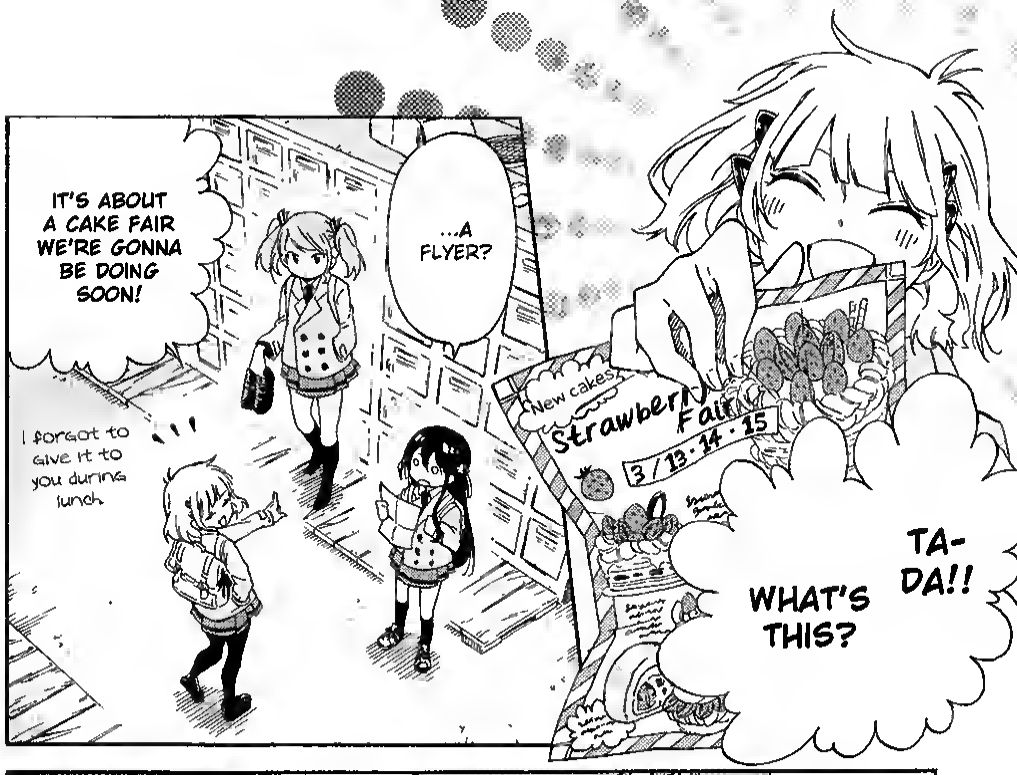
BU-
.....

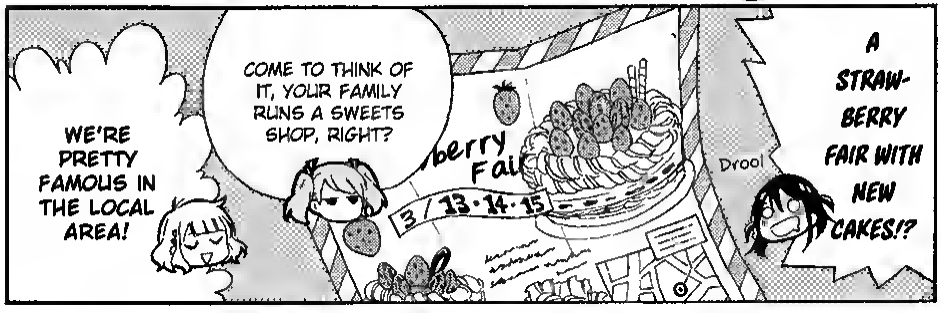
BUT STILL,
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!!
EVERYONE'S JUST ACTING A LITTLE MATURE FOR THEIR AGE,
LIKE WITH TALKING ABOUT DATING SOMEONE OR NOT.
...YOU THINK SO?
ISN'T THAT NORMAL FOR SOMEONE IN JUNIOR HIGH?
AH!
SO SOMEHOW OR OTHER, YOU HAVE THOSE SORTS OF WANTS, TOO?

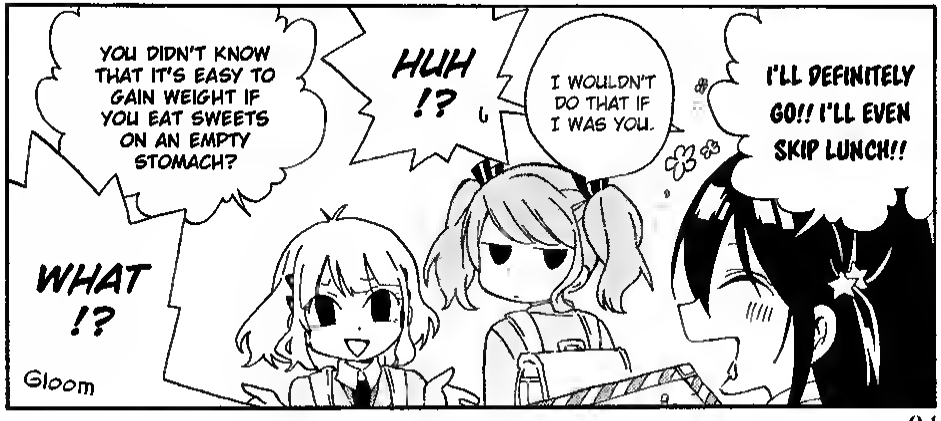
DOING STUFF LIKE THAT WITH ANOTHER GIRL...
...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
I STILL DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND
SO THEN WHY RIGHT NOW
DO I FIND MYSELF THINKING SO MUCH ABOUT KOTOOKA?
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'VE BEEN UNEASY ABOUT IT, TOO.
AND I WAS LIKE THAT ONCE BEFORE TOO,
THE OTHER GIRLS ARE JUST INTERESTED IN DOING STUFF LIKE THAT WITH GUYS,
SO...FOR NOW...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE,

I JUST
WANT TO KEEP CARING FOR HER.
WASHIO
IS SO AMAZING.

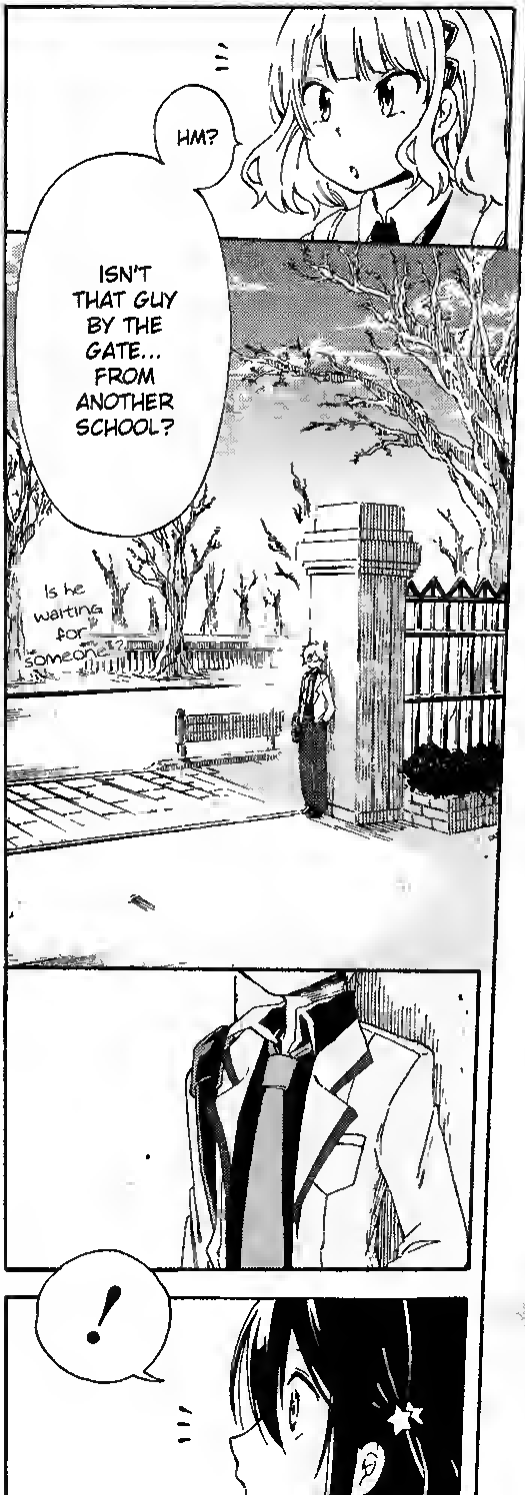
.....
... THAT'S ACTU-ALLY
PRETTY NICE!
...SHIRA-TORI?
TO THINK THAT SHE
CAN SORT OUT HER OWN FEELINGS LIKE THAT...


IT'S ABOUT A CAKE FAIR WE'RE GONNA BE DOING SOON!
...A FLYER?
I forgot to give it to you during lunch
New cakes
Strawberry Fair
3 / 13 · 14 · 15
WHAT'S THIS?
TA-DA!!


WE'RE PRETTY FAMOUS IN THE LOCAL AREA!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOUR FAMILY RUNS A SWEETS SHOP, RIGHT?
berry Fai
3 / 13 · 14 · 15
Drool
A STRAW-BERRY FAIR WITH NEW CAKES!?

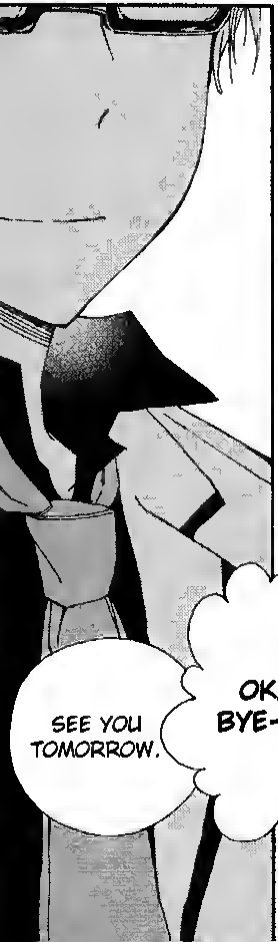

YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT'S EASY TO GAIN WEIGHT IF YOU EAT SWEETS ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?
HUH !?
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WAS YOU.
I'LL DEFINITELY GO!! I'LL EVEN SKIP LUNCH!!
WHAT !?
Gloom

SERIOUSLY!
Giggle
Giggle
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ALWAYS EATING A LOT BECAUSE YOU SAY IT DOESN'T MATTER SINCE YOU'RE IN A SPORTS CLUB!
Just like earlier today!
SO EVEN YOU WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT, SHIRATORI.
POEM
I eat dessert before meals
I HAD NO IDEA...
WHEN THE THREE OF US ARE TOGETHER.
...IT REALLY IS FUN
THE THREE OF US TALKING LIKE THIS.
I HAVE THE MOST FUN WHEN IT'S JUST
COMPARED TO THOSE THINGS,
GUYS AND SOCCER.
GIRLS AND LOVE STORIES.

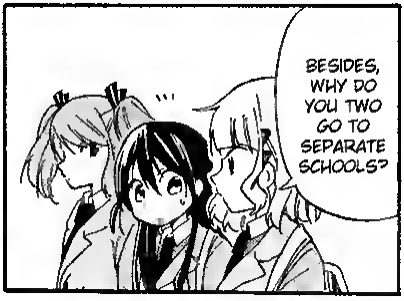


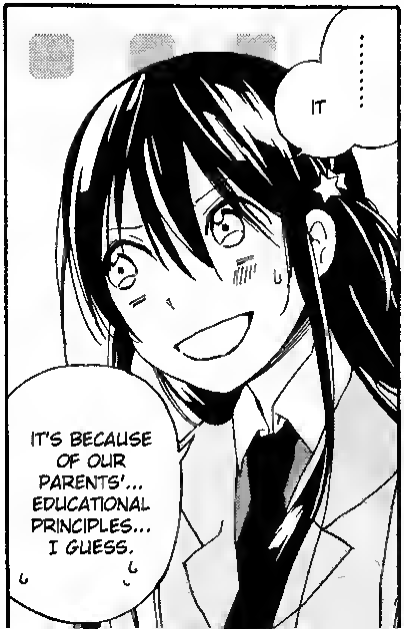
I JUST WANT THINGS TO STAY LIKE THIS FOR NOW...

THAT UNIFORM IS FROM MY BROTHER'S SCHOOL.
AHHH
YOUR TWIN BROTHER THAT GOES TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL?


SEE YOU TOMORROW.
OKAY! BYE-BYE!

Ah!
WELL, I HAVE TO GO TO MY CLUB, SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER!!

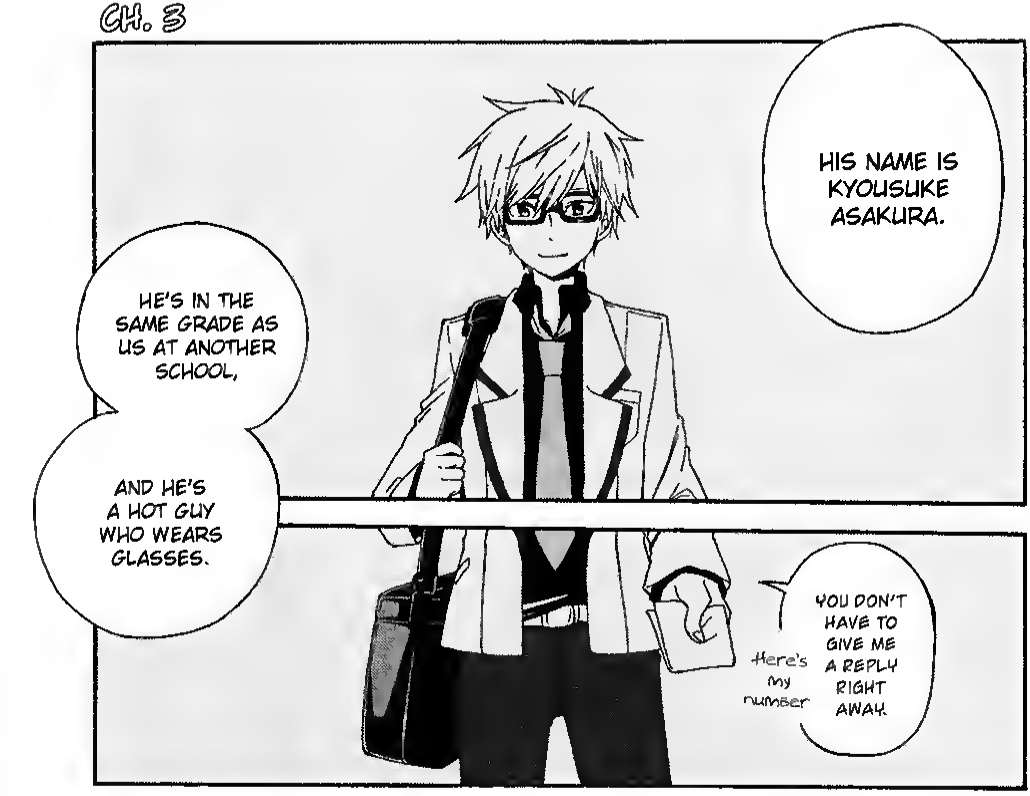

BESIDES, WHY DO YOU TWO GO TO SEPARATE SCHOOLS?


IT
IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR PARENTS'... EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES... I GUESS.

UM,
EXCUSE ME FOR DROPPING BY SO SUDDENLY.
...HUH?
ARE YOU TALKING TO ME...?

PLEASE
GO OUT WITH ME!
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU TWO MORE SURPRISED THAN ME!?
WHAA-AAAT!?

Hachimitsu Scans
~sweeter than honey~
hachimitsu-scans.blogspot.com


HIS NAME IS KYOUSUKE ASAKURA.
HE'S IN THE SAME GRADE AS US AT ANOTHER SCHOOL,
AND HE'S A HOT GUY WHO WEARS GLASSES.
Here's my number
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME A REPLY RIGHT AWAY.

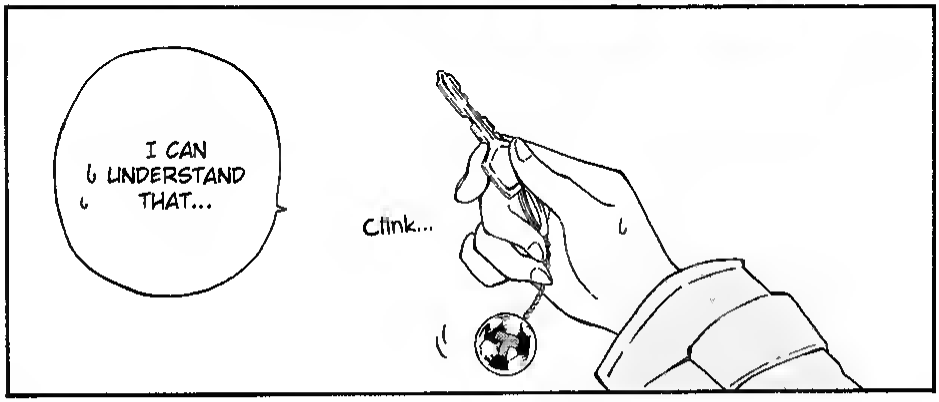
AFTER HE CONFESSED TO TSUKASA SHIRATORI-CHAN THE OTHER DAY,
WHAT DO YOU THINK HER REPLY WAS?

Hazy
BUT...
な
な
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE...
TH-THAT SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW...WOULD SUDDENLY CONFESS TO ME!
TH... TH... THAT...
AND HE WAS SO GOOD-LOOKING!
HAHAHAHAH
GEEZ !!
What's with your mask!?
Hazy...
You're spilling it.
I'll take croquettes
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THAT ALL MORNING!!!

ALL RIGHT.
.....
MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF A PENALTY GAME, OR HE LOST A BET AND JUST HAPPENED TO PICK ME...
WHY WOULD HE GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO CONFESS TO A GIRL FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL!?
THAT WOULDN'T CAUSE HIM ANY PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE, RIGHT...?
WHY!?
WHAT!?
LET'S GO SEE SHIRATORI'S BROTHER!!

CH. 3 ★ YOUNGER BROTHER

SO BASICALLY,
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE TSUKASA'S BROTHER GOES TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS KYOUSUKE ASAKURA.
YEAH, HE MIGHT KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE.


I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT...
Clink...

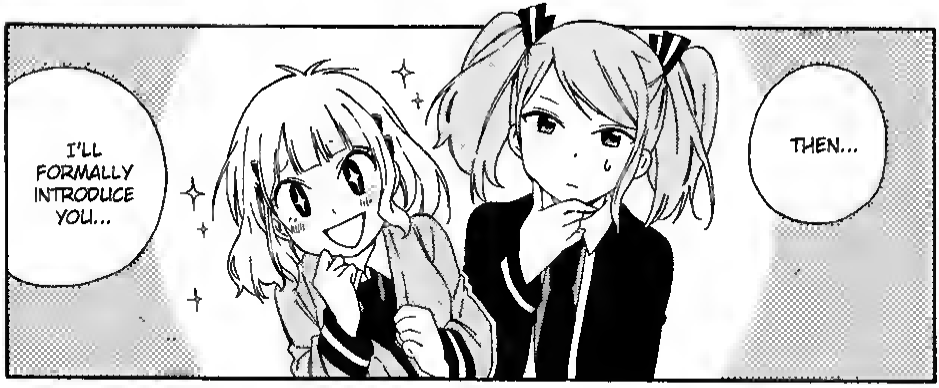
BUT WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED...?
WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR BROTHER BEFORE, SO I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET HIM!
AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT ROMANCE FINALLY FLOATING YOUR WAY, TSUKASA!♪
HO HO HO HO!
KOTOOKA... YOU SURE LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS.
DON'T GET SO EXCITED OVER IT!!
IT'D BE SO EMBARRASSING IF IT REALLY DOES END UP BEING A PENALTY GAME!

WE CAME HERE TO FIND OUT IF HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
SO LET'S HURRY UP ON INSIDE.

WHAT'S YOUR BROTHER LIKE?
WHAT CLUB IS HE IN?
HE'S ON THE SOCCER TEAM LIKE ME...
BUT AS FOR... WHAT HE'S LIKE...
.....
BAM!
!?
WHA-
WHAT WAS THAT!?
I''' I''' I'''
WHAT HAP...
GEH!

AH,
WELCOME HOME...
.....
THIS IS YOUR BROTHER??

CROSS-DRESSING?
AH!
WA!
And you even put on my uniform again without asking me!!
BUT I WAS SLEEPING, SO I JUST SAW YOUR TEXT...
It ended up like this because I was in a panic.
I TEXTED YOU TO TELL YOU TO GET CHANGED IF YOU WERE CROSS-DRESSING BECAUSE I WAS BRINGING OVER SOME FREINDS!!!
SUBARU !!!!

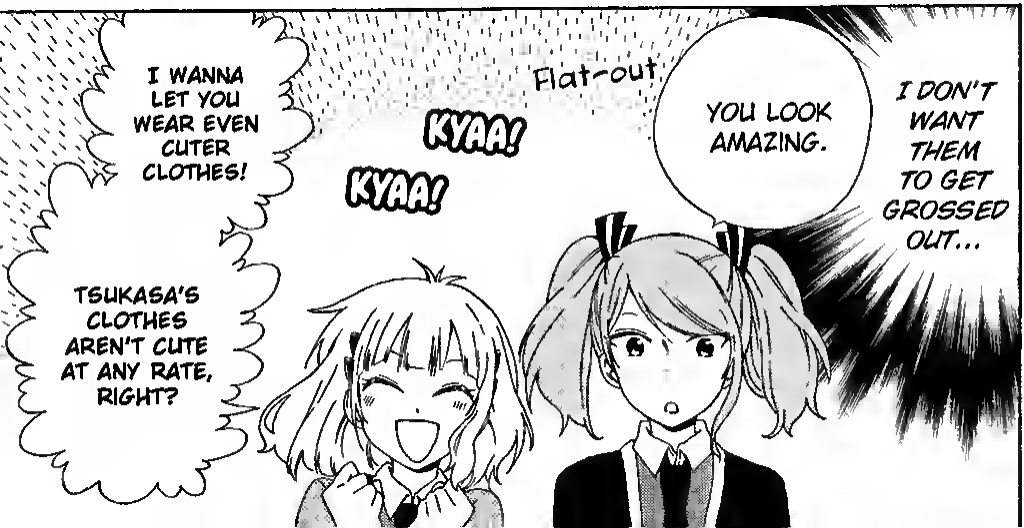

I'LL FORMALLY INTRODUCE YOU...
THEN...

Fwaa...
THIS IS MY BRO-THER...
SUBARU...

SAY SOMETHING ON! ...GO TO THEM!
WAA!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A GUY AT ALL...
WOW!!
A TRUE-BLUE CROSS-DRESSER!
KYA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
WASHIO...SAN? KOTOOKA...SAN?
Yes?
What?

DOES THAT MEAN THAT HAS TO BE THE FIRST THING YOU SAY TO THEM!?
SO THEIR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT...
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN ME LIKE THIS,
WHO THE HELL TOLD YOU TO ASK THEM HOW YOU LOOK IN DRAG!?
Uwaaaaa!

I DIDN'T WANT TO INTRODUCE SUBARU TO THEM ALL THIS TIME.
I DON'T WANT MY FRIENDS TO MEET MY FAMILY...
THIS IS WHY

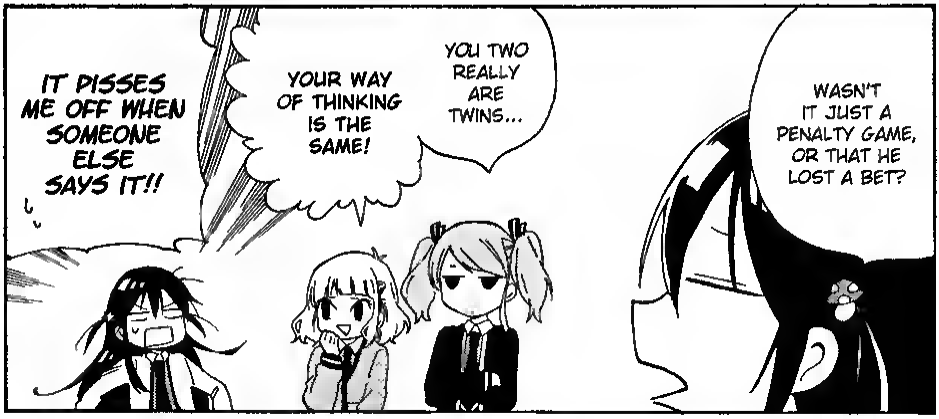

I WANNA LET YOU WEAR EVEN CUTER CLOTHES!
TSUKASA'S CLOTHES AREN'T CUTE AT ANY RATE, RIGHT?
KYAA!
KYAA!
Flat-out
YOU LOOK AMAZING.
I DON'T WANT THEM TO GET GROSSED OUT...

He's just cross-dressing.
WHY WOULD WE BE?
...YOU'RE NOT GROSSED OUT BY IT?
WELL, HE'S A LITTLE ODD,
BUT IT'S INTERESTING, SO IT'S JUST FINE!♡
THEY'RE BOTH SO EASY-GOING...
BUT WELL, I'M THANKFUL FOR THAT... Whew
ARE THESE HAIR EXTENSIONS?
It's a wig
Hmm
YOU SOUND LIKE A GUY...
LOOK LIKE A GIRL?
...DO I

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOU'RE HER TWIN SISTER!!
IT'S LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER SHIRATORI.
STOP IT!!!
...I GUESS HE'S PRETTY STRANGE.
What are we supposed to do with these?
A JUMP-SUIT...
Huh?
...THANK YOU.
I'LL GIVE YOU MY SUPERHERO COSTUME COLLECTION.
Complete with transformation belts.
KYOUSUKE ASAKURA?

IS HE ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
HMM...
HE GOES TO YOUR SCHOOL, SUBARU-KUN.
WHY?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME?
THAT GUY ASKED SHIRATORI OUT.
SO WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF INVESTIGATING WHAT KIND OF GUY HE IS!!
HE ASKED OUT TSUKASA ...?
HMMM...
Asakura.??
I ONLY REMEMBER HALF OF THE NAMES OF MY CLASSMATES...
Whisper
...I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE HE'S NOT GONNA BE MUCH HELP.
Whisper
...THAT'S JUST HOW HE IS... I'M SORRY...

STARE...
.....


WASN'T IT JUST A PENALTY GAME, OR THAT HE LOST A BET?
YOU TWO REALLY ARE TWINS...
YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS THE SAME!
IT PISSES ME OFF WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SAYS IT!!

BUT IS THERE ANY REASON FOR HIM TO FALL FOR YOU?
You don't even know him
Uh!
WELL...

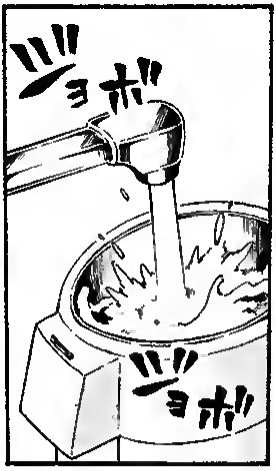
OH MY GOSH!
REALLY !?
WELL, WHATEVER.
I'LL LOOK INTO WHAT KIND OF GUY KYOUSUKE ASAKURA IS FOR YOU.

That's probably his friend's name...
Tomoyan?
I'll just ask Tomoyan.
Click
Click
BUT THANKS FOR THE HELP, SUBARU-KUN
I DON'T MIND.
I'M JUST INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHAT KIND OF GUY HE IS, TOO.
Eh heh!

SO,
WHAT SHOULD I ASK?
I KNOW!
WHAT CLUB HE'S IN, HIS GRADES, AND HOW MANY FRIENDS HE HAS!
WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF HIM AND WHAT HIS STATUS IS AT SCHOOL ARE ALSO IMPORTANT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK ALL OF THAT...
That'd be kinda creepy.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK, TOO.
!!
I WANT TO KNOW IF HE KEEPS HIS NAILS TRIMMED.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!?
IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF HYGIENE.

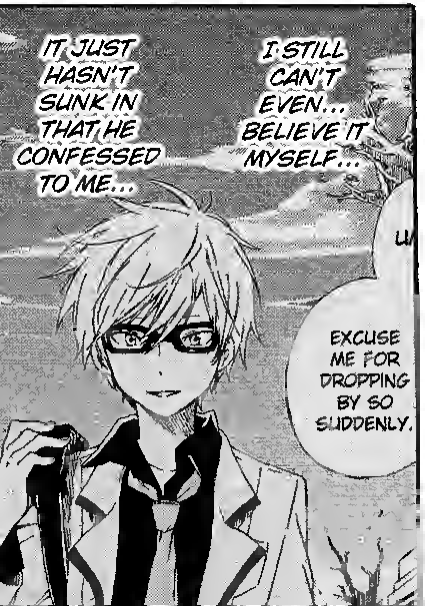
AH!
TSUKASA.
AH!
WH... WHAT!?
I'M THIRSTY.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!?
THAT REFLECTS ON HIS HUMANITY.
I ALSO WANT TO KNOW IF HE'S THE TYPE THAT WASTES TOILET PAPER.

There



Whew...
WHIRRR...
CLICK

THE GIRL IN QUESTION IS BEING LEFT OUT?
...WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE


IT JUST HASN'T SUNK IN THAT HE CONFESSED TO ME...
I STILL CAN'T EVEN... BELIEVE IT MYSELF...
EXCUSE ME FOR DROPPING BY SO SUDDENLY.

WHY AM I CAREFREELY MAKING TEA!?
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS ABOUT ME,
Shake
Shake
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE WENT TO THE SAME GRADE SCHOOL...
WHY ME?
WHEN?
WHERE?
"SO LET'S HURRY UP ON INSIDE."
"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK, TOO"
WERE BOTH CURIOUS ABOUT THAT...
KOTOOKA... AND WASHIO...
REALLY... WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?
URGH...
Why does Mom put them up here..?
SLIDE
AH!
I GUESS I'LL GET OUT THE CUPS FOR GUESTS.
WASHIO...
IS KIND OF
BEING ASSERTIVE... ABOUT THIS...

!?
WA-WASHIO!?
YOU WANT THIS?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE A CUP THIS NICE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE...!?
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU OUT.

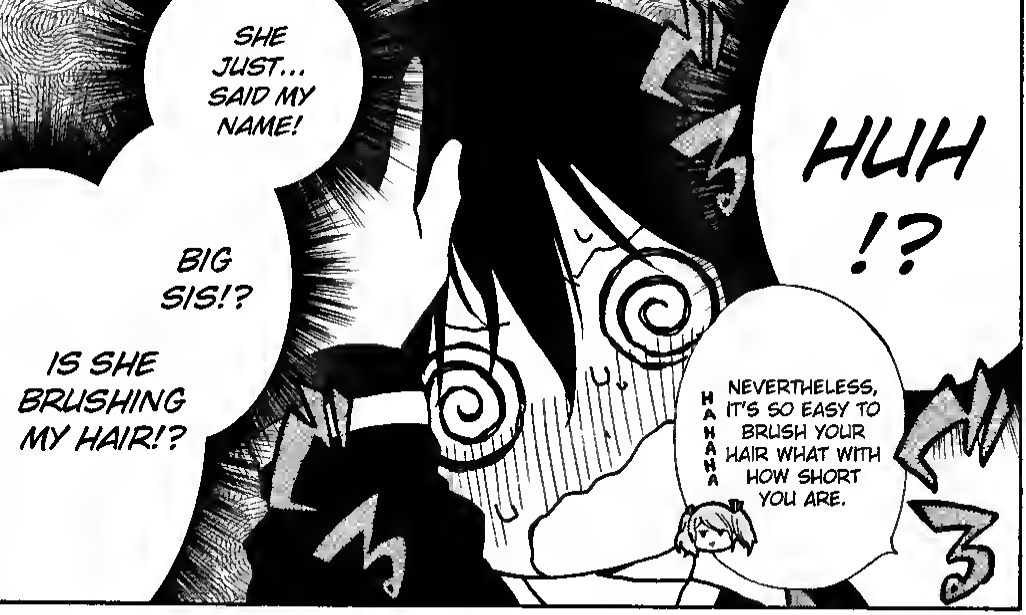
Huh...?
DID I ASK EVERYONE WHAT THEY WANTED TO DRINK...?
KOTOOKA WANTS LEMON TEA WITH TWO SUGAR CUBES,
SUBARU-KUN WANTS KELP TEA AND RICE CRACKERS,
AND I WANT COFFEE WITH ONE PACKET OF POWDERED MILK, NOT MILK.
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER IT...
Whir
Whew... Honestly
ALL OF YOUR ORDERS ARE TOO DETAILED!
None of you have a shred of restraint!
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO HELP YOU.
YEAH, YEAH.
THANK YOU VERY MU...
AH!

ISN'T THIS MY CHANCE TO ASK HER
IF SHE REALLY WANTS TO HOOK ME UP WITH ASAKURA-KUN...?
WA!
AH!
YOU AND SUBARU-KUN
HAVE MATCHING CUPS.
!!
WE... WE'VE HAD THESE FOR A LONG TIME...
SO WE DON'T BUY MATCHING STUFF ANYMORE!
HAHAHA
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING EMBARRASSED ABOUT?
IT'S INTERESTING THAT THAT'S SOMETHING THAT SCREAMS TWINS.
DO TWINS CONSCIOUSLY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE THE "OLDER SISTER" OR "YOUNGER BROTHER"?
HUH?

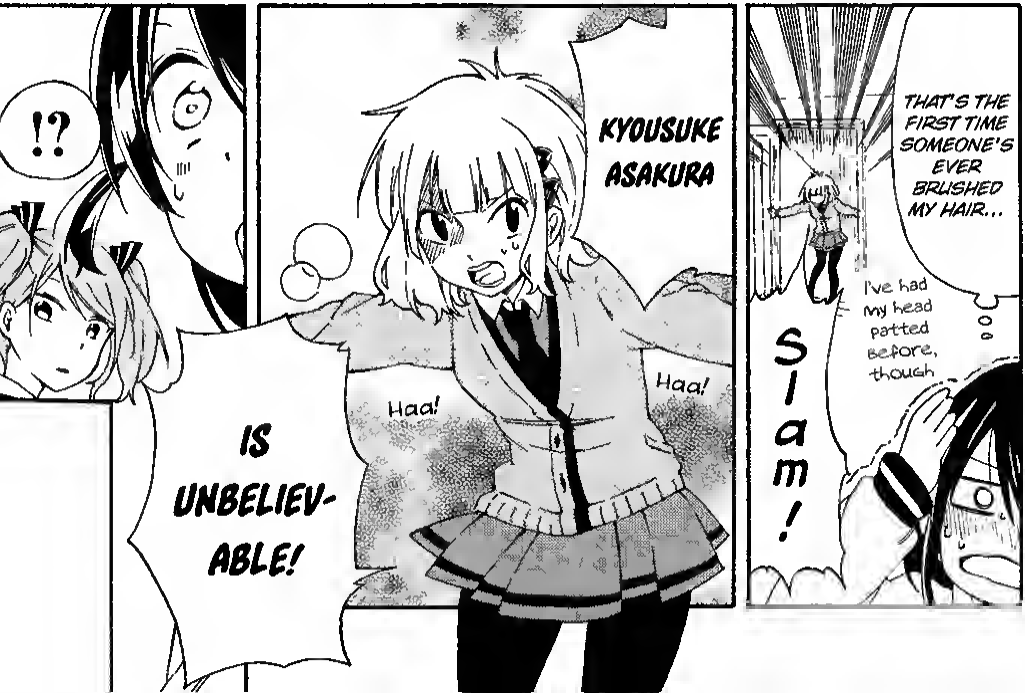
HMM...
IF ANYTHING, I'D SAY WE'RE "COUNTERPARTS",
Huh?
BUT SUBARU'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT,
AND SO I'VE HAD TO LOOK AFTER HIM,
SO I GUESS THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I THINK OF HIM AS MY YOUNGER BROTHER.
AH!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE ALWAYS USED TO CROSS-DRESS!
HE USED TO BE NORMAL, SO...
LIKE I SAID, THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
ARE YOU AGAINST HIM CROSS-DRESSING?
.....
...NO,
IF THAT'S WHAT SUBARU LIKES TO DO... THEN I THINK HE SHOULD BE FREE TO DO IT,
ALTHOUGH HE WON'T TELL ME WHY HE STARTED CROSS-DRESSING.
Glub
Glub
...IT MAY NOT BE "NORMAL"...

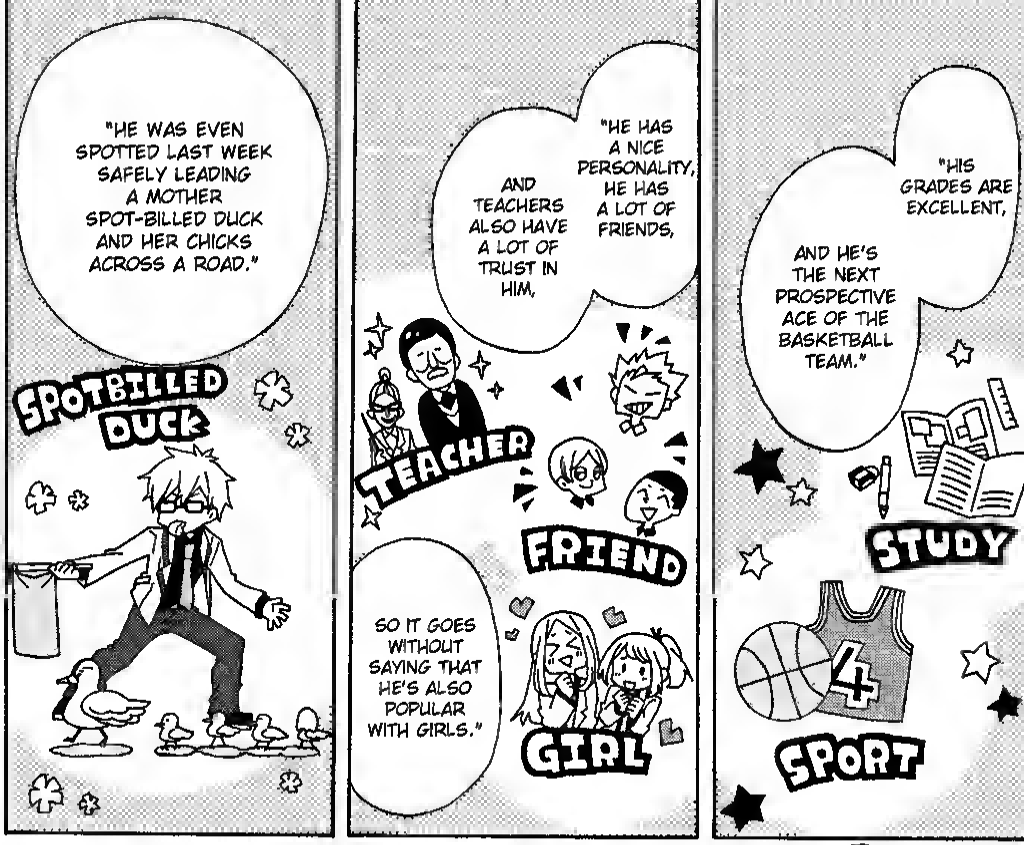
...AND I'M NOT REALLY ONE TO TALK...
BUT,
IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYONE'S GOING TO HAVE THE SAME REACTION AS YOU AND KOTOOKA...
SO I'M JUST... WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
...I THOUGHT SO.
HM?
WATCHNG YOU TODAY MADE ME THINK
THAT YOU FEEL LIKE AN OLDER SISTER WHEN IT COMES TO SUBARU-KUN.
Just GO put those away!!
But it's elastic and absorbs sweat
HUH?
YOU THINK SO?
IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL THAT WAY TO...

Brush
Brush
I GUESS I SEE YOU IN A NEW LIGHT,
BIG SIS TSUKASA.


SHE JUST... SAID MY NAME!
BIG SIS!?
IS SHE BRUSHING MY HAIR!?
HUH!?
HAHAHA NEVERTHELESS, IT'S SO EASY TO BRUSH YOUR HAIR WHAT WITH HOW SHORT YOU ARE.

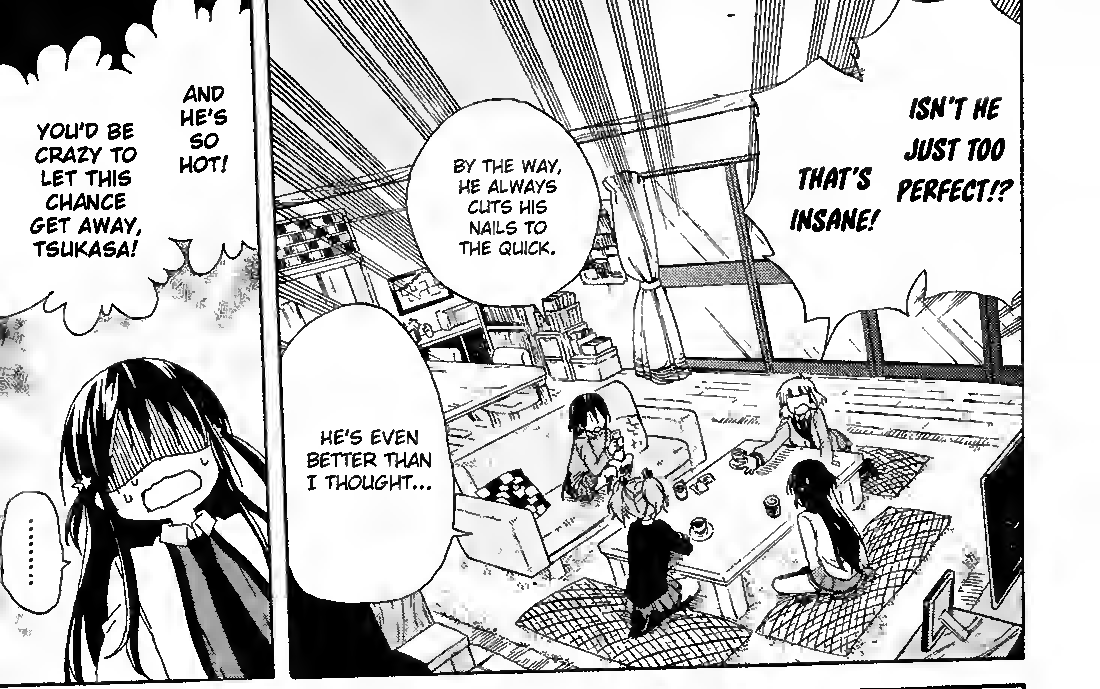
♪ Ding a ling a ling... ♪
LIFT
THE WATER'S READY.
Ah!
AH!

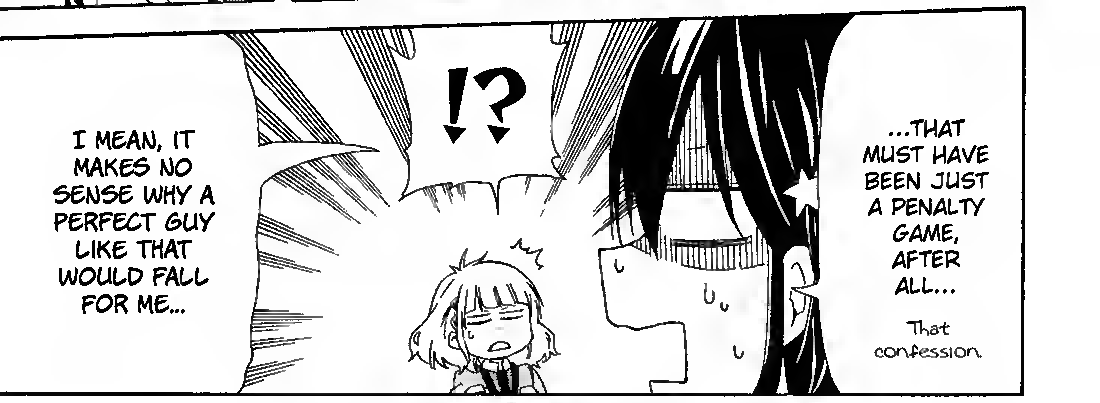

!?
KYOUSUKE ASAKURA
Haa!
Haa!
IS UNBELIEV-ABLE!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S EVER BRUSHED MY HAIR...
I've had my head patted before, though
Siam!


"HE WAS EVEN SPOTTED LAST WEEK SAFELY LEADING A MOTHER SPOT-BILLED DUCK AND HER CHICKS ACROSS A ROAD."
SPOTBILLED DUCK
"HE HAS A NICE PERSONALITY, HE HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS, AND TEACHERS ALSO HAVE A LOT OF TRUST IN HIM,
TEACHER
FRIEND
SO IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT HE'S ALSO POPULAR WITH GIRLS."
GIRL
"HIS GRADES ARE EXCELLENT, AND HE'S THE NEXT PROSPECTIVE ACE OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM."
STUDY
4
SPORT

...THAT'S WHAT I GOT FROM TOMOYAN ABOUT KYOUSUKE ASAKURA.
IT ACTUALLY SEEMS LIKE HE'S PRETTY WELL-KNOWN,

ALTHOUGH THIS IS ALL NEWS TO ME.

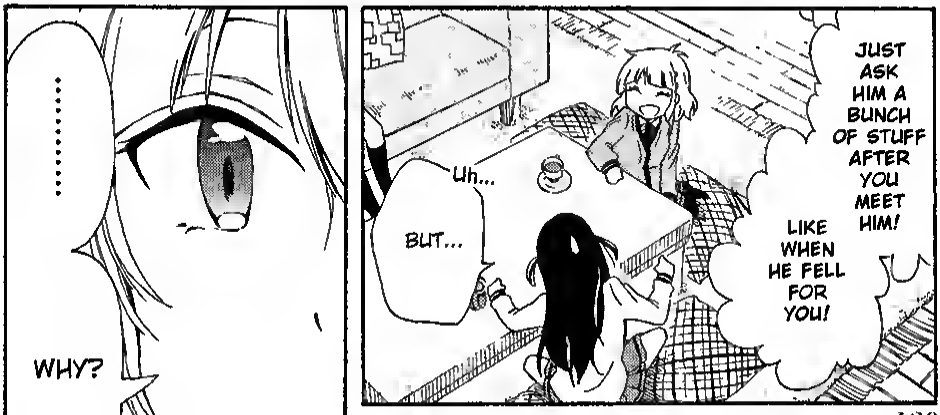

ISN'T HE JUST TOO PERFECT!?
THAT'S INSANE!
BY THE WAY, HE ALWAYS CUTS HIS NAILS TO THE QUICK.
HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN I THOUGHT...
AND HE'S SO HOT!
YOU'D BE CRAZY TO LET THIS CHANCE GET AWAY, TSUKASA!
.....


...THAT MUST HAVE BEEN JUST A PENALTY GAME, AFTER ALL...
That confession
!?
I MEAN, IT MAKES NO SENSE WHY A PERFECT GUY LIKE THAT WOULD FALL FOR ME...

THAT'S SO DEGRADING!!! IT'S JUST DEPRESSING IF YOU GO THAT FAR, TSUKASA!!
GAAAAH!
UNLIKE YOU, I'VE NEVER GONE THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS, SO THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
You two are so noisy
GAAAAH!
.....
YOU SHOULD MEET UP WITH HIM.

IT'S THE SAME AS WITH A SOCCER MATCH.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PREPARE FOR IT,
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR OPPONENT IS UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY CONFRONT THEM.

FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD MEET UP WITH HIM ONCE!
ぱっ
あっ
...HE'S RIGHT!!


JUST ASK HIM A BUNCH OF STUFF AFTER YOU MEET HIM!
LIKE WHEN HE FELL FOR YOU!
Uh...
BUT...
.....
WHY?

WHY ARE YOU SO AGAINST MEETING UP WITH HIM?
WHY ...?
BE- BECAUSE THAT'S... ...!!
Glance

?
...PLUS,
THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE
EVEN SIMPLER
THAT I CAN TELL THEM.
...I I DON'T KNOW...

I JUST SIMPLY
DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO...
OR HOW... I SHOULD ANSWER HIM...
YEAH...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ALREADY PREOCCUPIED WITH WASHIO...
I CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY...
THINK ABOUT THIS GUY...
TSUKASA,
.....

ARE YOU STUPID
OR SOME-THING?

YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
SOME GUY JUST CONFESSED TO YOU, SO WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL NERVOUS FOR!?
YOU JUST HAVE TO MEET UP WITH HIM! YOU'RE OVERTHINKING THINGS!!
I'M JUST TELLING IT LIKE IT IS!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING IT THAT WAY FOR!?

UH!
CHANCES LIKE THIS DON'T COME AROUND VERY OFTEN.
SEE!?
NADESHIKO AND I ARE ON THE SAME PAGE, SO THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON FOR YOU TO MEET HIM!
キーン
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NADESHIKO!?
MY VIEW ISN'T AS ONE-SIDED AS KOTOOKA'S,
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD AT LEAST MEET UP WITH HIM.
...IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ASAKURA-KUN IS A BAD GUY.
THAT...
YOU MIGHT FIND YOU HAVE THINGS IN COMMON IF YOU TALK WITH HIM,
AND

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ANYONE,
...YEAH,
RIGHT?
IF I'M THAT AGAINST IT...
IT MIGHT... BE WEIRD...
Clench...
IF I SCREW UP,
THEY MIGHT FIND OUT WHAT MY FEELINGS ARE.
ALL RIGHT.

WA!
I'LL MEET UP WITH HIM.
SO YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING INTERESTED IN IT!!
NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, YOU SHOULD TEXT HIM RIGHT AWAY!
HE GAVE YOU HIS NUMBER, RIGHT?
Yeah...
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE...?
LEAVE THAT TO ME!!
EHHH...?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'D WRITE SOMETHING WEIRD, SO I'LL PASS.
Like using too many ♡
OH, COME ON!
.....

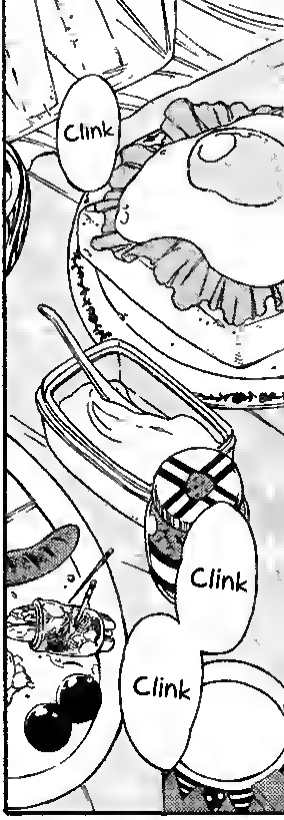
Hachimitsu Scans
~sweeter than honey~
hachimitsu-scans.blogspot.com

CH. 4
Fwaa...
AH!
MORNING,
SUBARU.

Whew...
DID YOU GO FOR A RUN?
IT'S PRETTY RARE FOR YOU TO DO IT ON A SUNDAY.
...I KIND OF JUST WANTED TO GET SOME EXERCISE.
THAT'S OUR BREAKFAST!
MOM AND DAD ALREADY LEFT FOR WORK.
I SEE.
ARE YOU GOING TO MEET KYOUSUKE ASAKURA TODAY?
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A HABIT OF SPITTING STUFF OUT, TSUKASA.
Here's a tissue.

CH. 4 ★ TALK

HUH?
IT'S NOT JUST GONNA BE YOU AND HIM?


Clink
Clink
Clink

KOTO-OKA SAID
THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF IF IT WAS JUST SUDDENLY ME AND HIM,
SO WE'RE GONNA INVITE OUR FRIENDS AND ALL HANG OUT TOGETHER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A KARAOKE BOX,
AND THEN WE'RE GONNA GO TO KOTOOKA'S CAFE FOR THE CAKE FESTIVAL.
New cakes!
Strawberry Fair
Chew
Chew
Spread
Spread
...REALLY...
Cakes...

NO, WHY WOULD I?
WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, AND IT'D BE SUCH A PAIN.
HAVE YOU TALKED TO ASAKURA-KUN?
He goes to your school, right?
...SUBARU...
UH...
YOU HAVE A POINT WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...
Great, how are you?
Hey, how's it going?
AM I AN IDIOT?
"I'M THE TWIN BROTHER OF THE GIRL YOU CONFESSED TO"?
BESIDES, WHAT WOULD I SAY TO HIM?
...BUT WELL,
I WAS KIND OF SUPRIRSED...
TO BE HONEST,
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU AT FIRST BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE YOU'D GIVE ME A HARD TIME IF YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT ASAKURA-KUN,
BUT YOU'VE BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY HELPFUL...
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE...

I NEVER SAID
THAT I WOULD HELP YOU.
HUH?
WHEN I TOLD YOU TO MEET UP WITH KYOUSUKE ASAKURA...
WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT I WANTED YOU...
TO HURRY UP AND REJECT HIM.
Grin
WHA ...!?

DOESN'T HE JUST HAVE HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS?
HE FELL FOR A GIRL HE'S NEVER EVEN TALKED TO BEFORE?
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW,
KYOUSUKE ASAKURA IS A WEIRDO.
FRUIT MILK
AND YOU USED TO PUT BUGS IN YOUR PENCIL BOX,
SO HURRY UP AND PERSONALLY DISAPPOINT HIM.
THERE ARE HOLES IN YOUR SOCKS,
YOU ALWAYS WEAR A TRACKSUIT, YOUR ROOM AND HOW YOU SPEAK ARE BOTH DIRTY,
AFTER ALL,
NIGHT!
YOU AND I CAN WATCH "RAIN DANCE RANGER: OPERATION SUNNY DAY" TOGETHER TO-
AND THEN

OR AT LEAST THAT'S HOW SOCIETY WOULD VIEW ME.
HAVE A SISTER COMPLEX,
YOU ...!
Own.
YOU...
HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...!!
SO,
THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION IS POINTLESS.
Stare...
JUST HURRY UP AND REJECT HIM SO YOU CAN PUT AN END TO IT.
YOU...
SUBARU...
HE'S ALWAYS CLUNG TO ME,
AND I HAD THOUGHT THAT HE GOT A LITTLE BETTER ONCE WE STARTED JUNIOR HIGH...
Kindergarten
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, TSUKASA—
LET'S GO PLAY WITH THE BUNNY CLASS!!
BUT ISN'T HE ACTUALLY GETTING WORSE...?

!!
TSUKASA, ARE YOU GONNA BE ON TIME?
DON'T YOU HAVE TEAM PRACTICE THIS MORNING?
DO YOU HAVE YOUR KEY?
I have team practice too, so I won't be home.
YES!!
It's not good to blame others.
I WASTED TIME BECAUSE OF YOU!
Waaaa!
TSU-KASA,
WHAT!? DID I FORGET SOME-THING!?
I FORGOT
TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

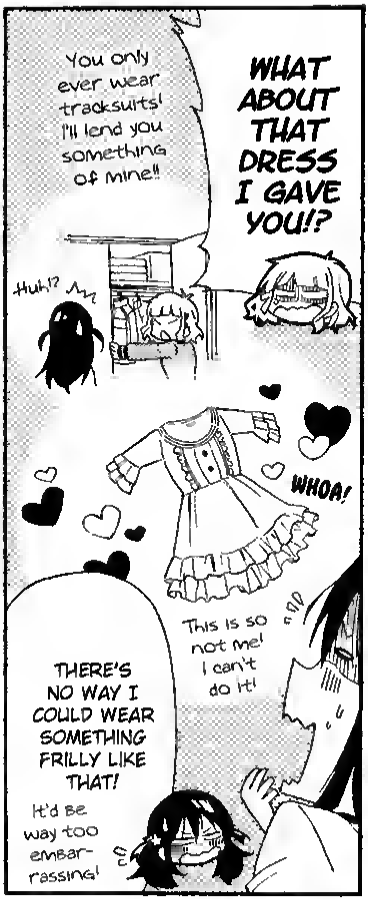
WERE YOU HAPPY
WHEN HE ASKED YOU OUT?

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?
HMM...
WELL...

SO OF COURSE...
WELL... I'M GRATEFUL FOR HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME...
HOW I FEEL ...?
HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.
AND I REALIZED THAT NO ONE ASKED YOU
IT'S ALL BEEN ABOUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH BEING ASKED OUT,
I'M HAPPY THAT...
.....
AH!
7:20
ARE YOU GONNA BE ON TIME?

.....
Have a good day!
SEE YOU LATER !!!
たったったった
HE ASKED ME SOMETHING SO WEIRD.
...WHAT'S WITH SUBARU?
.....
OF COUR...
PLEASE
GO OUT WITH ME!
THAT I'D BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, OF COURSE...
IT'S NORMAL...

...HOW DO I
...REALLY FEEL...?
DO I NOT EVEN
KNOW THAT...?
WHY!?
.....!

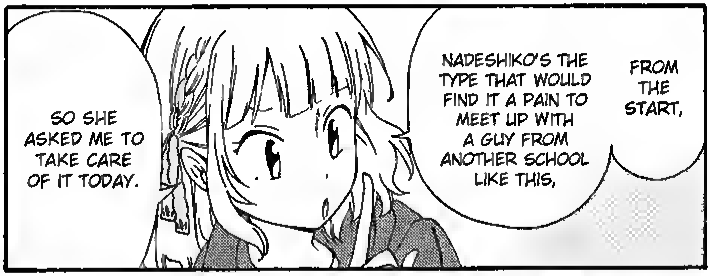

You only ever wear tracksuits! I'll lend you something of mine!!
WHAT ABOUT THAT DRESS I GAVE YOU!?
Huh!?
WHOA!
This is so not me! I can't do it!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD WEAR SOMETHING FRILLY LIKE THAT!
It'd be way too embarrassing!

WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR UNIFORM!?
HUH!?
BUT I CAME HERE FROM TEAM PRACTICE...

...HUH?
Are they wearing makeup!?
THEY'RE ALL SO DRESSED UP FOR THIS...
G... GOOD POINT...
You're already being cut off
YOU'RE SO OUT OF PLACE!

HUH!?
NADESHIKO'S NOT COMING.
IT'S PRETTY RARE FOR HER TO BE LATE
... WHERE'S WASHIO?
Search

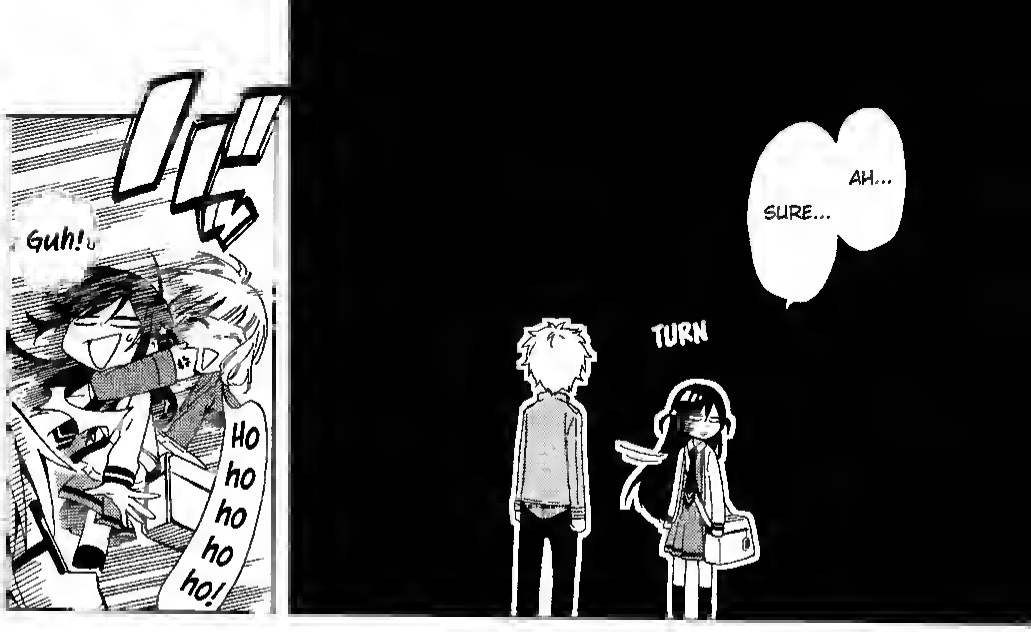
...TO BEGIN WITH,
TODAY WAS THE DAY WHEN KOTOOKA INVITED ME AND WASHIO TO THE CAKE FESTIVAL AT HER FAMILY'S CAFE...


SO SHE ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF IT TODAY.
NADESHIKO'S THE TYPE THAT WOULD FIND IT A PAIN TO MEET UP WITH A GUY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL LIKE THIS,
FROM THE START,

THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ISN'T EVEN COMING!?
AFTER ALL SHE DID TO PUSH ME TO COME...
WHAAAT!!?
Urgh...

TODAY WAS THE ONLY DAY THAT I COULD MEET UP WITH THE OTHERS,
AND EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T JUST GOING TO BE THE THREE OF US HANGING OUT...
UHH...
.....
I STILL WANTED HER TO COME...!!
!!!
JUDGING FROM WASHIO'S BEHAVIOR,
DOES SHE NOT CARE ABOUT
WHAT I'M GONNA SAY TO ASAKURA-KUN...?
UM,
!!
ARE YOU ALL FROM SAKURANOKAN JUNIOR HIGH?

ARE YOU FROM NIRO JUNIOR HIGH?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY!
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU!
HELLO, SHIRATORI-SAN.
AH...
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
UH...
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!

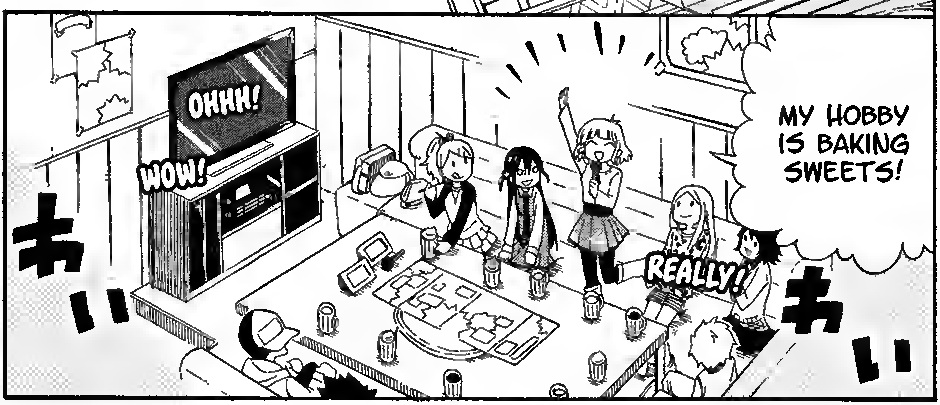

Guh!
Ho ho ho ho ho!
TURN
AH...
SURE...

What!?
I...I WAS JUST NERVOUS...
DON'T YOU TALK TO THE GUYS IN CLASS LIKE IT'S NOTHING!?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT WAS THAT!! YOU WERE SO RUDE!

BUT...
WHEN I LOOK AT ASAKURA-KUN...
IT...I-I-I-I-IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT WHEN HE ASKED ME OUT...

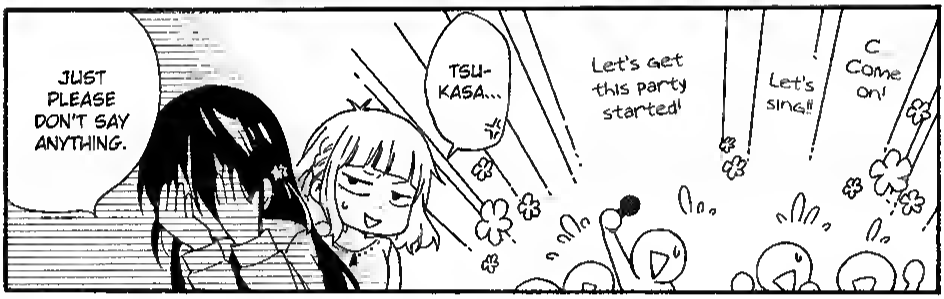
THE OTHERS DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ASAKURA-KUN,
SO JUST ACT NORMAL!!
O...OKAY!

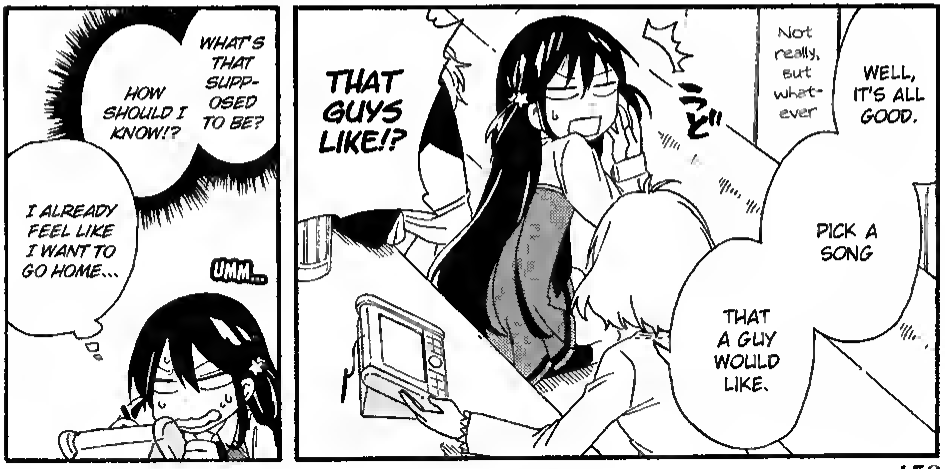
I'M FROM SAKURANOKAN JUNIOR HIGH CLASS 1-B IN THE DRAMA CLUB,
MIKAGE THANKS KOTOOKA! FOR COMING TODAY!
AM I GONNA BE OKAY LIKE THIS TODAY...!?
KARAOKE

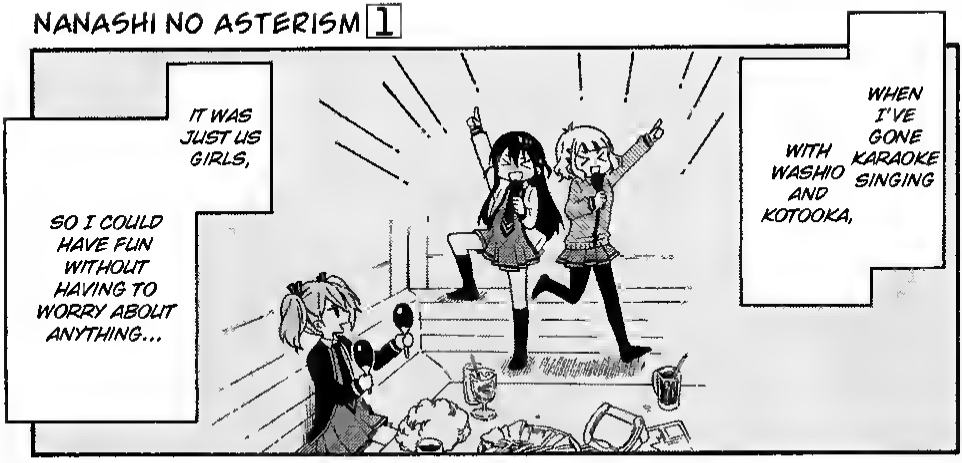

OHHH!
WOW!
REALLY!
MY HOBBY IS BAKING SWEETS!

YOUR TURN, TSU-KASA!!
TO DOING STUFF LIKE THIS... How reassuring.!
SHE'S SO USED
OHHH...
...THAT'S SO LIKE KOTOOKA.

...I'm Tsukasa Shira-tori...
My hobby...
is
Soccer...
Mumble Mumble

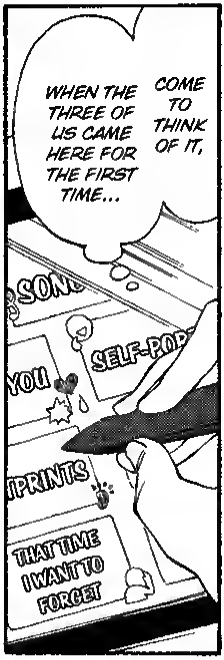

JUST PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING.
TSU-KASA...
Let's get this party started!
Let's sing!!
C Come on!


WHAT'S THAT SUPP-OSED TO BE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?
I ALREADY FEEL LIKE I WANT TO GO HOME...
UHM...
THAT GUYS LIKE!?
Not really, but what-ever
WELL, IT'S ALL GOOD.
PICK A SONG
THAT A GUY WOULD LIKE.

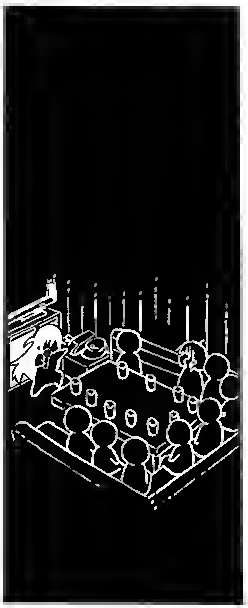

IT WAS JUST US GIRLS,
SO I COULD HAVE FUN WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING...
WHEN I'VE GONE KARAOKE SINGING WITH WASHIO AND KOTOOKA,

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID...
Ah!

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME COMING TO A KARAOKE BOX,
BUT IT'S PRETTY FUN!


COME TO THINK OF IT,
WHEN THE THREE OF US CAME HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME...
SONG
YOU
SELF-POR
PRINTS
THAT TIME I WANT TO FORGET

Ah!!
THIS SONG...
SUBARU AND I USED TO SING IT TOGETHER BECAUSE HE LIKED IT!!
UMM. UMM.
I...I'M THINKING ABOUT WASHIO AGAIN...



I CAN DO THIS ONE...!!

DUMPLING SQUAD CHIGNON RANGER!!

DANCE THE TANGO! 1! 2! 3! DUMPLINGS! (RED BEAN JAM!!)

Interlude

NOW I'VE DONE IT!

...WHAT SONG IS THIS...?

...A SUPERHERO SONG FROM WHEN WE WERE KIDS...?

AH... AHHH!!! IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

あせ

あせ

WHEN I REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...

WHAT GIRL WOULD PICK A SUPER-HERO SONG TO SING FIRST...?

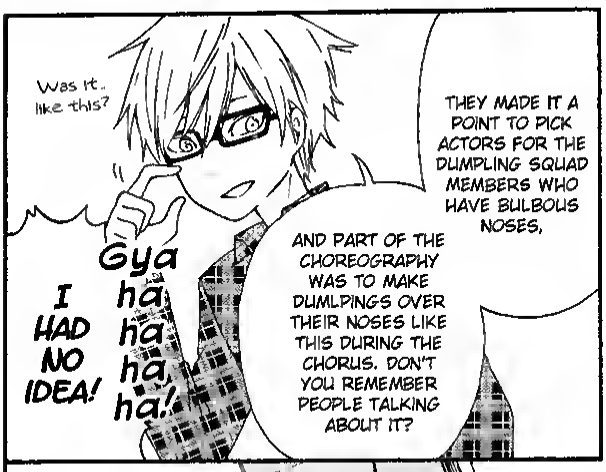
WHY DID I GO WITH SUBARU AS THE NORM!? I'M SO STUPID!!

AHHHHH! AND THIS SONG IS FOR A DUET...!!

THIS IS SO EMBARR-ASSING...!! JUST END ALREADY!

I USED TO WATCH THIS SHOW,
AND I LIKE THE THEME SONG, TOO.
MIND IF I SING WITH YOU?
!
Ah.
ALL... RIGHT...
THANKS!!
...ASAKURA-KUN...

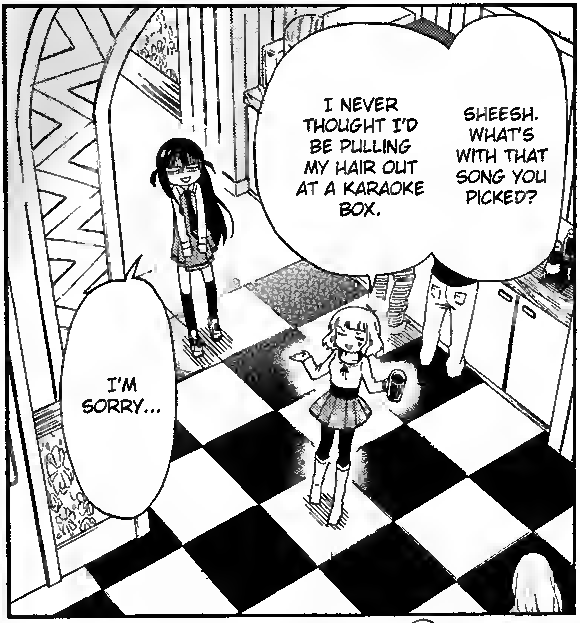
DUMPLING SQUAD CHIGNON RANGER!!!
DANCE THE TANGO! 1! 2! 3! DUMPLINGS! (MITARASHI!)


Was it like this?
I HAD NO IDEA!
Gya ha ha ha ha!
AND PART OF THE CHOREOGRAPHY WAS TO MAKE DUMLPINGS OVER THEIR NOSES LIKE THIS DURING THE CHORUS. DON'T YOU REMEMBER PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT IT?
THEY MADE IT A POINT TO PICK ACTORS FOR THE DUMPLING SQUAD MEMBERS WHO HAVE BULBOUS NOSES,

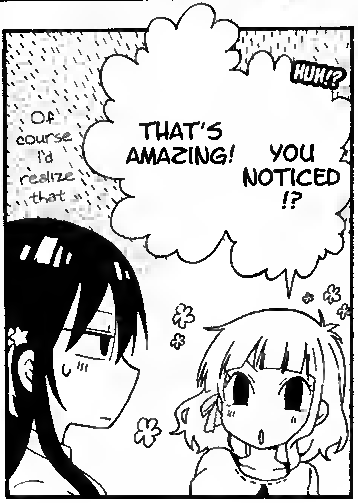
Gyahahaha!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ASA-KURA!?
NONE OF YOU REMEMBER !?

TSUKASA,
Ah!
HELP ME GO GET SOME DRINKS!
Ah ha ha!
ASAKURA-KUN REALLY GETS INTO THE SWING OF THINGS!
WELL, HE'S HOT.
YEAH, HE'S HOT.

ASAKURA-KUN...
COVERED FOR ME...

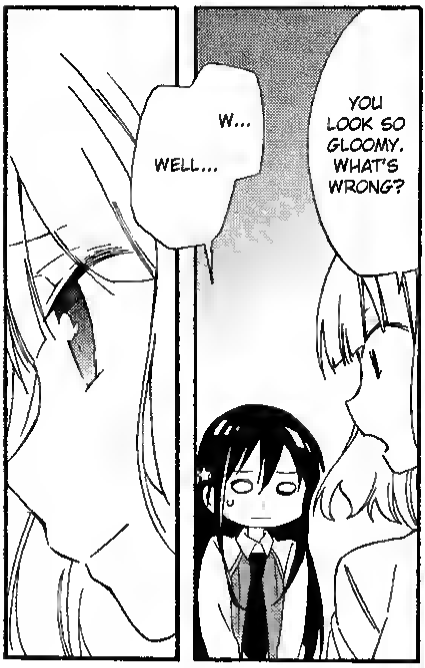

I'M SORRY...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE PULLING MY HAIR OUT AT A KARAOKE BOX.
SHEESH. WHAT'S WITH THAT SONG YOU PICKED?

I LIKE ASAKURA-KUN QUITE A BIT.


HUH!?
THAT'S AMAZING! YOU NOTICED !?
Of course I'd realize that

ASAKURA-KUN
IS A NICE GUY.
YEAH...
HE'S NICE...

THAT I'M...
KIND OF STARTING TO FEEL GUILTY...
HE'S SO NICE...


W... WELL...
YOU LOOK SO GLOOMY. WHAT'S WRONG?

EVEN THOUGH HE ASKED OUT SOMEONE LIKE ME...
I JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY AND MET UP WITH HIM
WITHOUT EVEN UNDERSTANDING MY OWN FEELINGS...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ACTING LIKE A LITTLE GIRL WORRIED ABOUT BECOMING A WOMAN?
AH, IT'S REALLY STRETCHY.
OWWW!
YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF NOW!
IF YOU WANT TO TALK,
I'M HERE FOR YOU.
SO YOU FEEL GUILTY ABOUT GETTING CARRIED AWAY...
HMM...

...COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I'VE TALKED TO SOMEONE... ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
BUT I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK TO WASHIO ABOUT IT...
Hmm
THAT SAID, I STILL FEEL KIND OF GUILTY GETTING ADVICE FROM KOTOOKA WHEN WASHIO ISN'T HERE...
BUT IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
I'M ALSO KOTOOKA'S FRIEND, AFTER ALL.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH GETTING CARRIED AWAY?
!?
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, YOU OVERTHINK THINGS, TSUKASA.

AND THEN THERE'S FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE THAT FELL FOR YOU!
I THINK IT ALL GOOD AS LONG AS YOU HAVE SOME FUN,
I CAN'T DO SOMETHING THAT YOU'D DO!!
THAT'S HOW I END UP GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE!
In fact, do you think I can!?
IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN "LIKING" SOMEONE?
BESIDES,
IS HOW YOU FEEL REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
ハッ

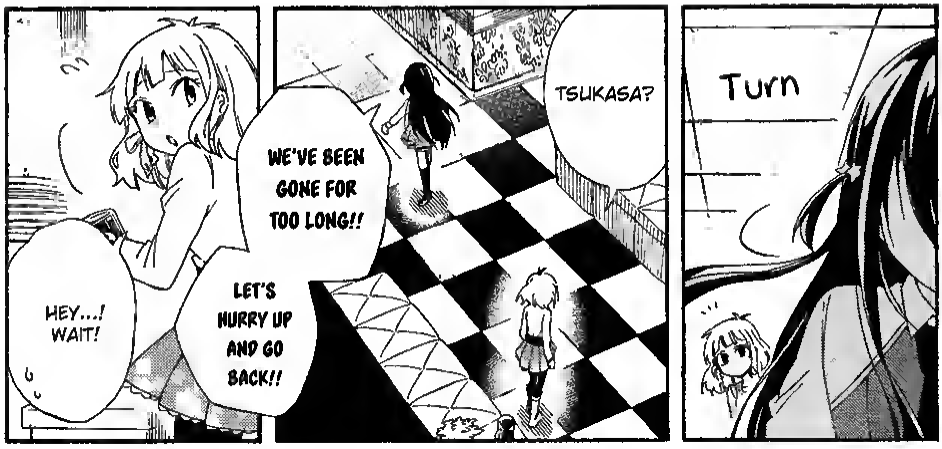
WHAT'S
I'VE THOUGHT THIS FOR A WHILE,
BUT I CAN'T UNDER-STAND THAT WAY YOU THINK!

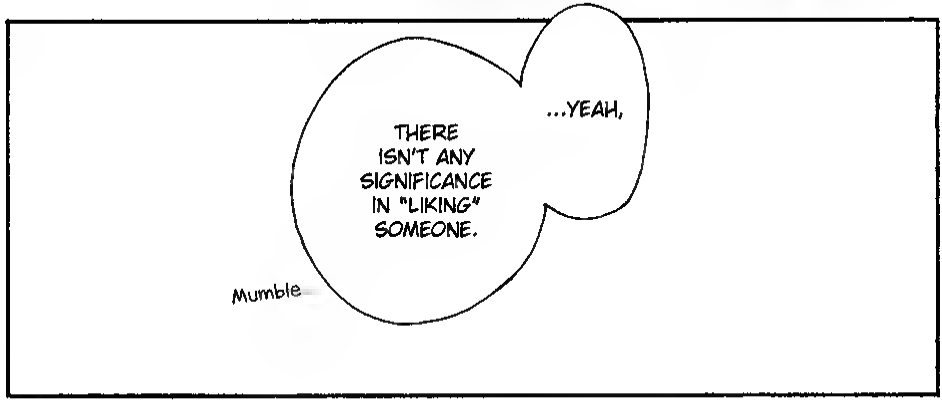
EVEN THOUGH
WHY...?
WASHIO CARES ABOUT YOU SO DEEPLY,
I DON'T WANT YOU TO SAY SOMETHING THAT TAKES THOSE FEELINGS LIGHTLY...!!
.....
WELL,
THIS IS JUST MY OPINION,
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO UNDERSTAND IT...

HOW-
EVER,
TAP
SINCE WE'RE FINALLY TALKING ABOUT LOVE,
I'M JUST SAYING IS THAT YOU SHOULD ENJOY IT MORE!
TSUKASA,
YOU HAVEN'T SMILED ONCE ALL DAY.

WHAT AM I...
GETTING MAD FOR...?
EVEN THOUGH KOTOOKA WAS HELPING ME OUT BY GIVING ME SOME ADVICE...
GEEZ, DON'T YELL AT ME ALL OF A SUDDEN!
You're so scary!
I DID THE SAME THING...
TO HER BEFORE, TOO...
WHY...?
I...
I'M SORRY...

WAS IT
BECAUSE I'VE ONLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT WASHIO...?
.....

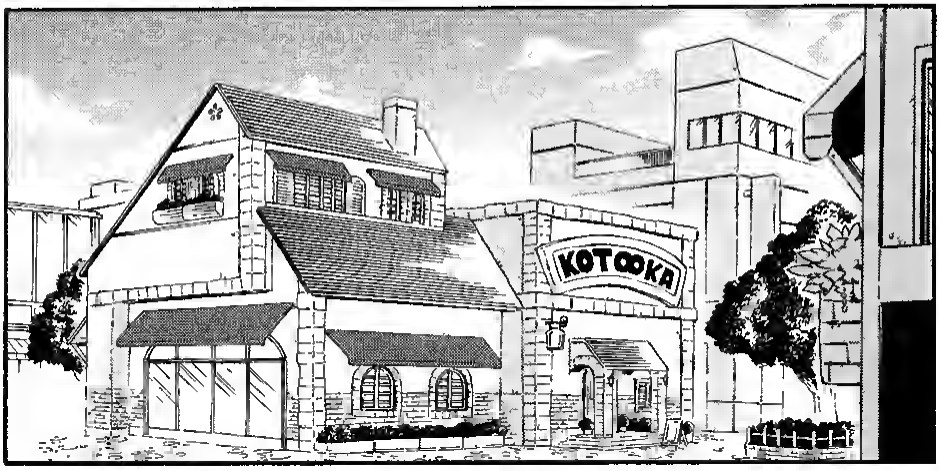

HEY...! WAIT!
WE'VE BEEN GONE FOR TOO LONG!!
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO BACK!!
TSUKASA?
Turn

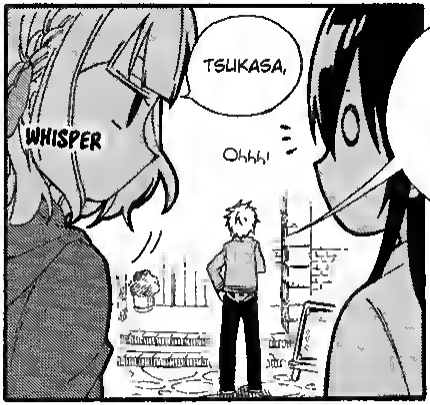

...YEAH,
THERE ISN'T ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN "LIKING" SOMEONE.
Mumble

EXCEPT FOR JUST ONE THING...
THEN THERE'S

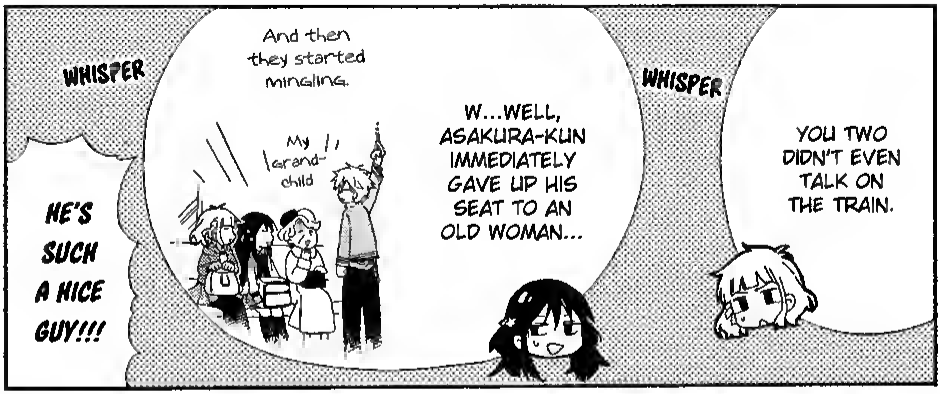
FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
THAT FELL FOR YOU...
.....
EH HEH HEH!
AREN'T WE GOING TO YOUR CAFE NOW...?
HUH?
TODAY WAS A LOT OF FUN!!
THEN WE'LL SEE YOU LATER!

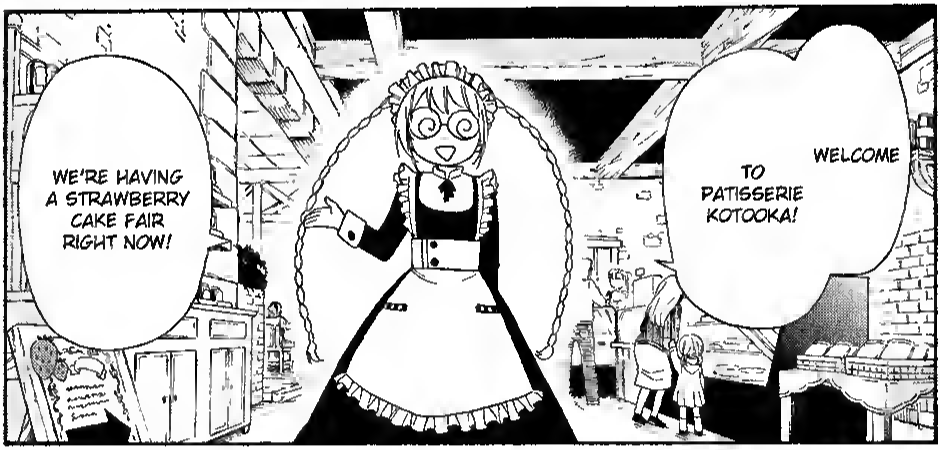
I ONLY INVITED YOU AND ASAKURA-KUN TO THAT.
YOU TWO HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO TALK AT ALL,
SO I GLOSSED IT OVER WITH THE OTHERS!♡

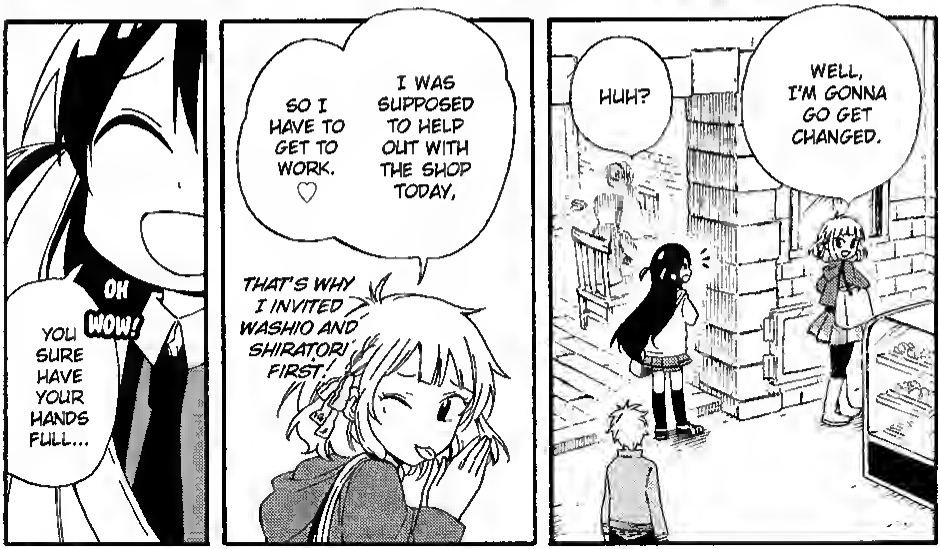

KOTOOKA


TSUKASA,
WHISPER
Ohhh!

IT'S A PRETTY CUTE SHOP.
WOW...
SO YOUR FAMILY RUNS A CAFE AND A SWEETS SHOP, KOTOOKA-SAN?


WHISPER
HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY!!!
And then they started mingling.
My grandchild
W...WELL, ASAKURA-KUN IMMEDIATELY GAVE UP HIS SEAT TO AN OLD WOMAN...
WHISPER
YOU TWO DIDN'T EVEN TALK ON THE TRAIN.

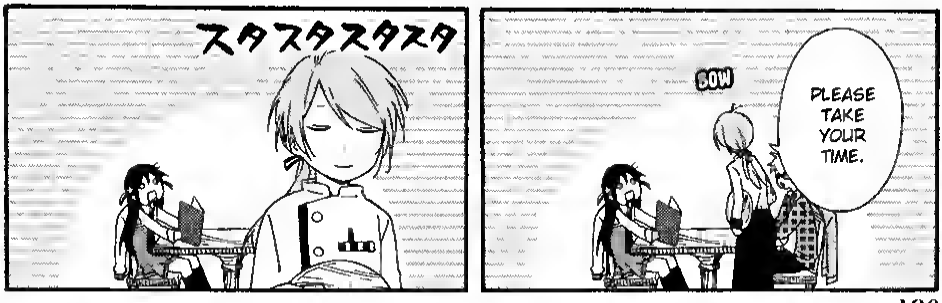

WE'RE HAVING A STRAWBERRY CAKE FAIR RIGHT NOW!
WELCOME TO PATISSERIE KOTOOKA!


OH WOW!
YOU SURE HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL...
SO I HAVE TO GET TO WORK. ♡
I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP OUT WITH THE SHOP TODAY,
THAT'S WHY I INVITED WASHIO AND SHIRATORI FIRST!
HUH?
WELL, I'M GONNA GO GET CHANGED.

AHHH-HHH!!
IT ENDED UP AS JUST THE TWO OF US!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
NOW THAT IT'S JUST US,
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO HIM...
I MEAN, WHEN I THINK ABOUT...
ぐるぐるぐる
ASAKURA-KUN HAVING...
F...F... FEELINGS FOR ME...

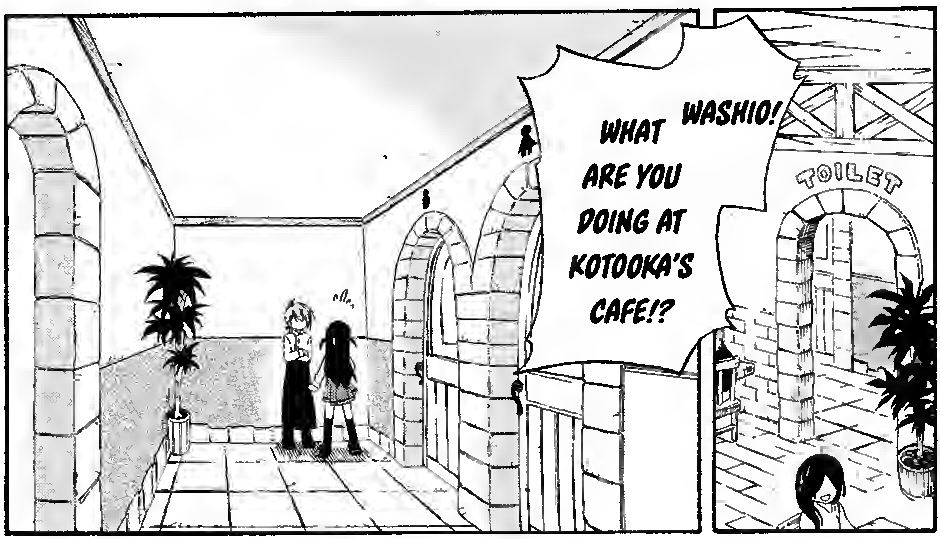
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ASK HIM THAT!!!!
ゴロ
ゴロ
!?
ビク
O...OH, YEAH...
SHOULDN'T I ASK HIM
WHY HE LIKES ME...?
Ah!
B...BUT I HAVE TO ASK HIM...
U...
UM...
HERE I HAVE SOME WATER FOR BOTH OF YOU.

WA
SHI
O?


スタスタスタスタ
BOW
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME.

SHIRA-TORI-SAN,
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GONNA
I HAVE TO GO TO THE REST-ROOM!!
WAITRESS, TELL ME WHERE IT IS!!

.....
I GUESS SHE WAS HOLDING IT IN FOR A WHILE...


WASHIO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT KOTOOKA'S CAFE!?
TOILET

I'M HELPING OUT WITH THE CAFE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
DRESSED AS A GUY.
AND WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT!!?
What's with the tips of your hair being more styled than usual?
Ah!
YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD, TSUKASA.

SO YOU REALLY HAVEN'T NOTICED...
HUH ...?
THE WAITRESS FROM EARLIER...?
HMM, I GUESS I'M PRETTY GOOD AT CROSS-DRESSING.
CROSS...
NO WAY...

Ta-da!

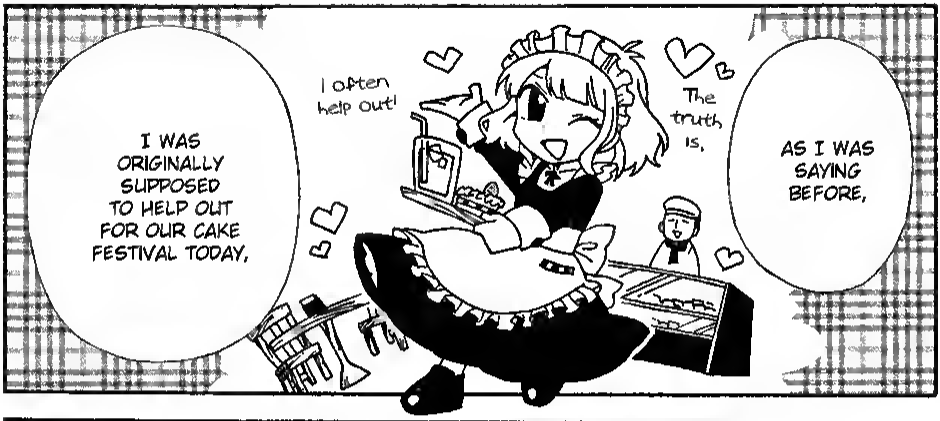
SUBARU
!?
YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT, WASHIO-SAN.
Pompf
YOU ALSO LOOK GOOD IN SOMETHING ELSE OTHER THAN "SHIRATORI COSPLAY", SUBARU-KUN.
WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING...!?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED...

Hachimitsu Scans
~sweeter than honey~
hachimitsu-scans.blogspot.com

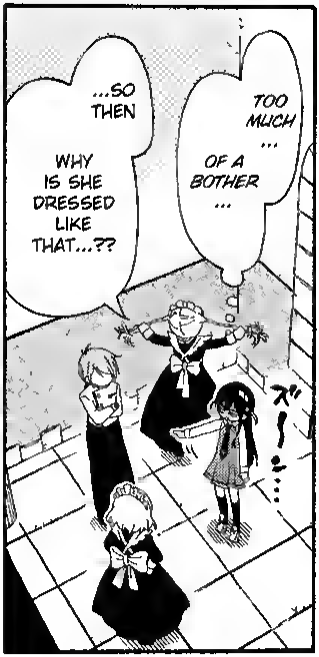
CH. 5
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD DRESSED AS A GUY, WASHIO-SAN.
I CAN'T COMPETE WITH HOW YOU LOOK DRESSED AS A GIRL, SUBARU-KUN.
Clap
Clap
JUST EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S GOING ON!!!
Stop complimenting each other!!
KOTOOKA

CH. 5★NAMELESS

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?
KOTO-OKA !!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR RENEWED UNIFORMS? AREN'T THEY CUTE?
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS HIDING IT FROM YOU.
Booo!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MORE IMPORTANTLY?
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, WHY ARE THESE TWO HERE!?

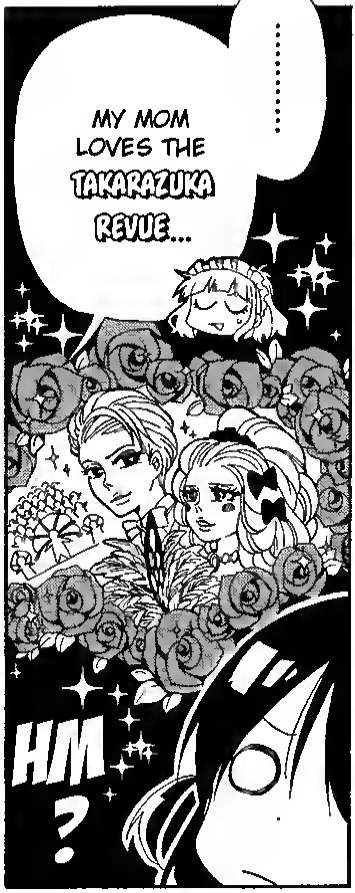

I WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO HELP OUT FOR OUR CAKE FESTIVAL TODAY,
I often help out!
The truth is,
AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE,

Go on.
SO WHEN I CALLED NADESHIKO TO TELL HER
THAT I WOULDN'T BE GOING KARAOKE SINGING...


...SO THEN
WHY IS SHE DRESSED LIKE THAT...??
TOO MUCH ... OF A BOTHER ...
ズ!

TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER...
SHE SAID, "TO BE HONEST, IT'D BE TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER TO GO OUT KARAOKE SINGING WITH A GUY I DON'T EVEN KNOW,
SO I'LL HELP OUT AT THE CAFE IN YOUR PLACE."

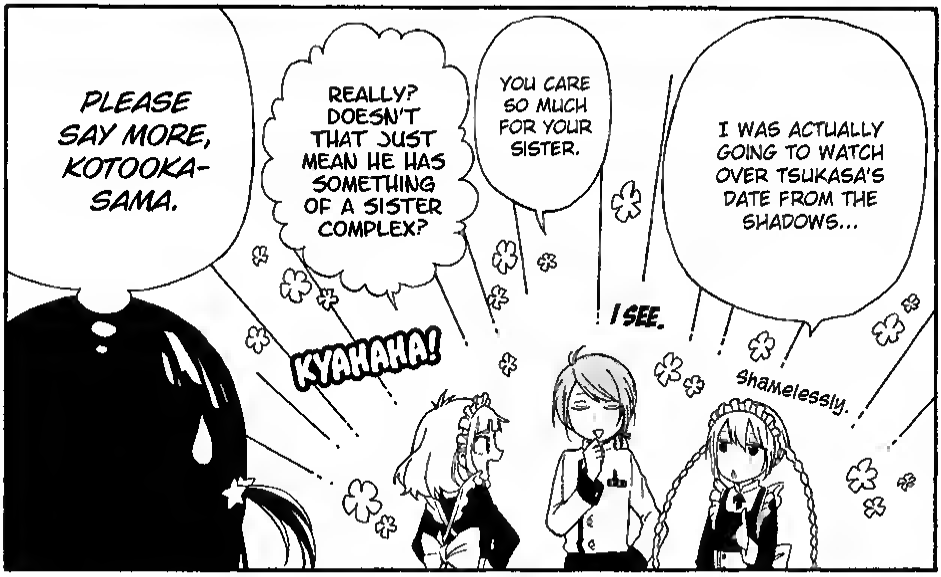
I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU'RE TALL AND YOU HAVE SUCH A PRETTY FACE, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D LOOK GOOD IF YOU DRESSED UP AS A GUY, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BY THE WAY, FOR A WHILE NOW,
THANKS FOR COMING TODAY, NADESHIKO-CHAN!
It basically went like this
Kotooka's mom
TO BE HONEST,
I GOT CARRIED AWAY WHEN SHE COMPLIMENTED ME.
どーん
THAT'S WHY!?


MY MOM LOVES THE TAKARAZUKA REVUE...
HM?

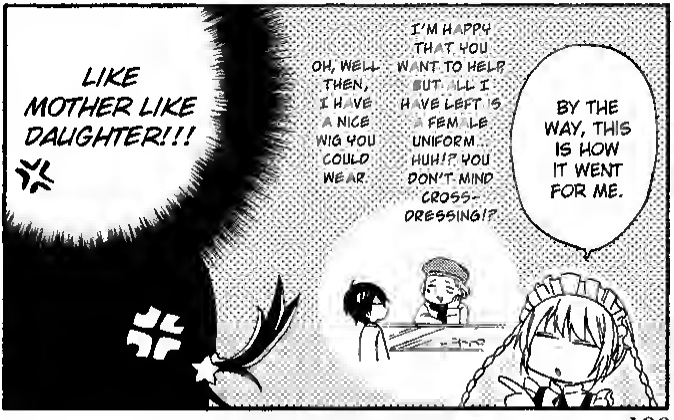
The cafe's address is on this flyer, too
I HEARD ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON TODAY FROM TSUKASA,
SO I DECIDED TO CHECK IT OUT AFTER I WAS FINISHED WITH SOCCER PRACTICE.
Strawberry Fair

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT SUBARU-KUN WAS HELPING OUT, TOO.

I'M NOT USED TO THIS, SO YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP.
Are you- Subaru-kun!?
Ah!
AND SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS HAVING A ROUGH TIME, SO I DECIDED TO HELP OUT.
AND THEN I FOUND WASHIO-SAN LIKE THIS FOR SOME REASON.


PLEASE SAY MORE, KOTOOKA-SAMA.
REALLY? DOESN'T THAT JUST MEAN HE HAS SOMETHING OF A SISTER COMPLEX?
YOU CARE SO MUCH FOR YOUR SISTER.
I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO WATCH OVER TSUKASA'S DATE FROM THE SHADOWS...
KYAHAHA!
I SEE.
Shamelessly.

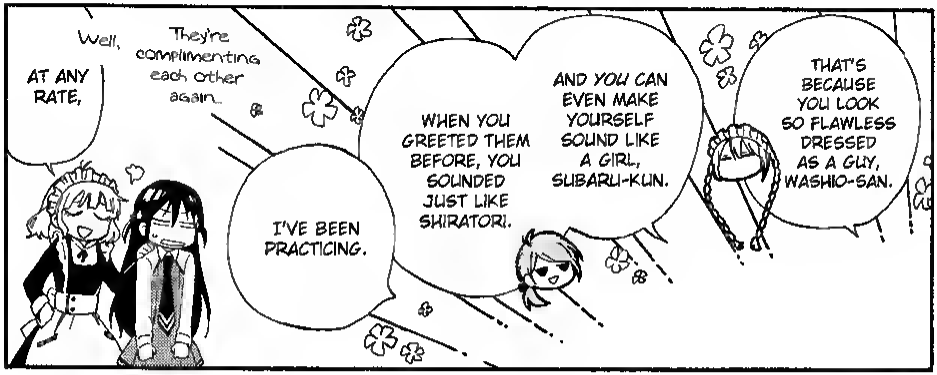
BE-SIDES, SUBA-RU...
DIDN'T YOU PROMISE ME...

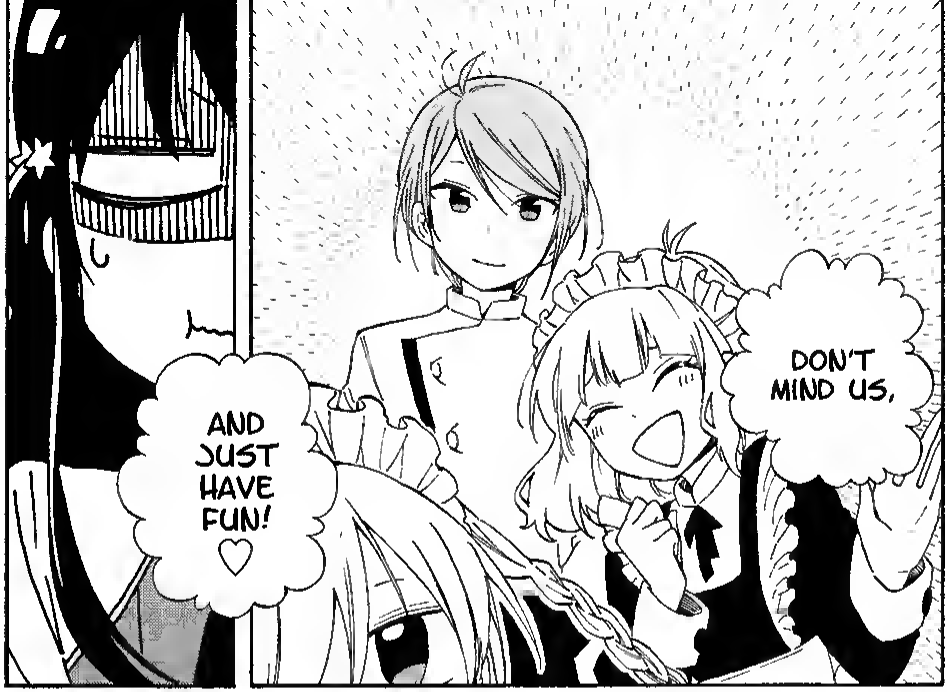

LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER!!!
OH, WELL THEN, I HAVE A NICE WIG YOU COULD WEAR.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU WANT TO HELP BUT ALL I HAVE LEFT IS A FEMALE UNIFORM... HUH!? YOU DON'T MIND CROSS-DRESSING!?
BY THE WAY, THIS IS HOW IT WENT FOR ME.

I'M JUST CROSS-DRESSING THIS TIME BECAUSE I WAS ASKED TO,
SO THIS IS AN EXCEPTION.
I didn't tell her that I already do it
AN EXCEP-TION...?
THAT YOU WOULDN'T CROSS-DRESS OUTSIDE...!?
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING SOMETHING WEIRD, RIGHT!?
PLUS,
THIS IS ALSO A DISGUISE SO THAT KYOUSUKE ASAKURA DOESN'T KNOW WHO I AM,
AND IT'D BE A PAIN IF HE FOUND OUT THAT YOUR BROTHER GOES TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIM.
.....

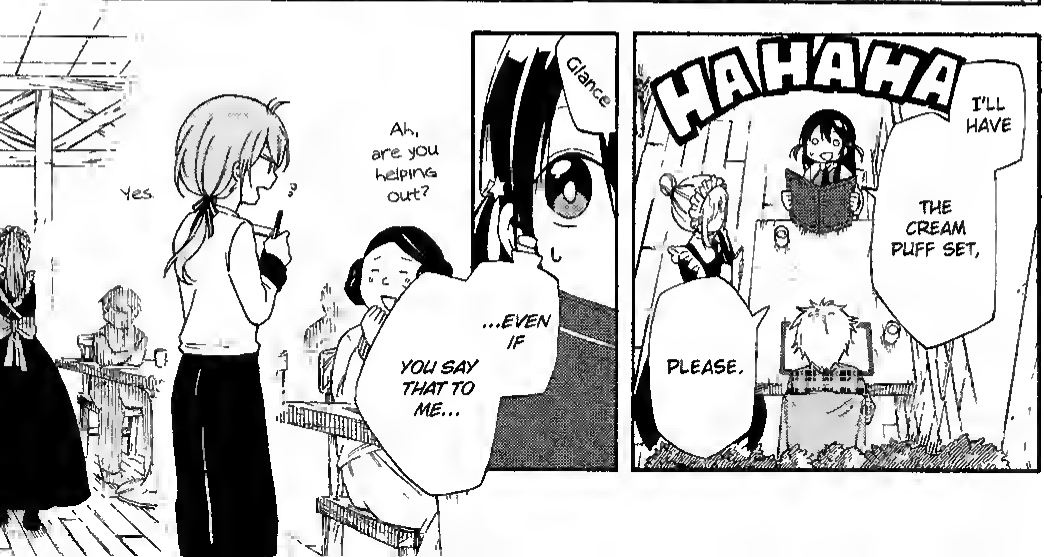
SO THAT'S...
KYOUSUKE ASAKURA...
Hmm, what should I go with?

Although I just happened to be there when he asked Shiratori out, so I guess that makes sense.
ASAKURA-KUN DIDN'T REALIZE WHO I AM AT ALL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
Hmm..
LIKE I THOUGHT, I'VE NEVER TALKED TO HIM BEFORE.
.....


Well, AT ANY RATE,
They're complimenting each other again.
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.
WHEN YOU GREETED THEM BEFORE, YOU SOUNDED JUST LIKE SHIRATORI.
AND YOU CAN EVEN MAKE YOURSELF SOUND LIKE A GIRL, SUBARU-KUN.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LOOK SO FLAWLESS DRESSED AS A GUY, WASHIO-SAN.


DON'T MIND US,
AND JUST HAVE FUN!

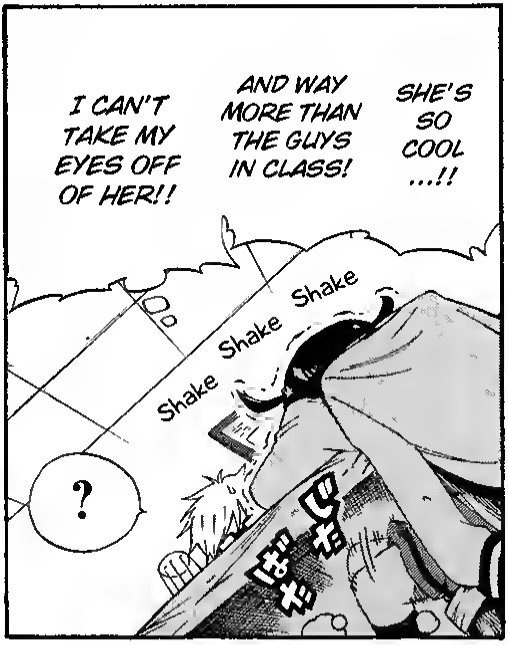
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT TO ME...
...I'LL HAVE THE STRAWBERRY TART, PLEASE.


HAHAHA
I'LL HAVE THE CREAM PUFF SET, PLEASE.
Glance
...EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT TO ME...
Ah, are you helping out?
Yes.

SHE LOOKS SO DREAMY!!
Right away, Madam...
HEAR ING THI- NGS

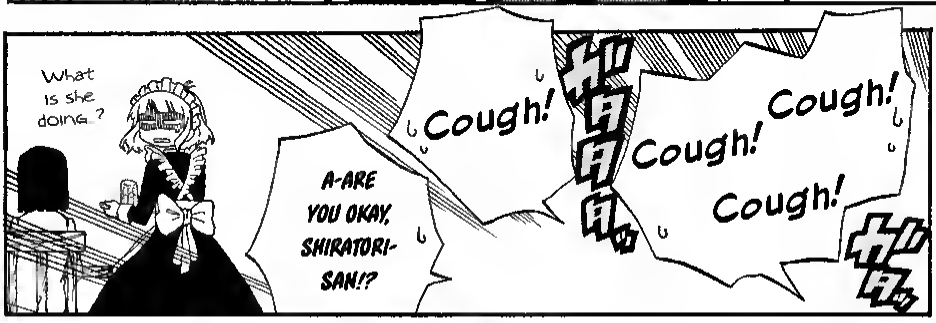
YOUR DRINKS WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.
HERE IS YOUR STRAW- BERRY TART AND CREAM PUFF SET.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
Ah!
Clink

Spark
Spark
Spark
Spark


I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF HER!!
AND WAY MORE THAN THE GUYS IN CLASS!
SHE'S SO COOL ...!!
Shake
Shake
Shake
?

CLENCH
DON'T GIVE ME A THUMBS UP!!!!!
SPARK
SPARK
SPARK
どどーん
?
?
?
...ITS KIND OF
...BIGGER THAN WHAT I ORDERED...
DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT LOOK SO OVER THE TOP!!!
WHAT KIND OF FREEBIE IS THAT!?
WHAT IS THAT!?
I'LL JUST DRINK THIS AND CALM DOWN..
Gulp
HERE ARE YOUR DRINKS.
TH... THEN... I'M GRATEFUL TO THEM
I...IT'S A FREEBIE... BECAUSE ALL OF THEIR CAKES ARE SO DELICIOUS...

PFFT!


What is she doing?
A-ARE YOU OKAY, SHIRATORI-SAN!?
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!

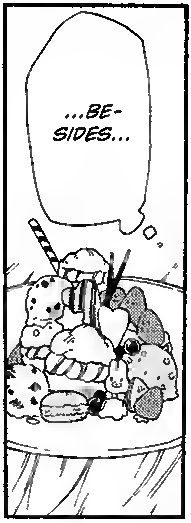
!?

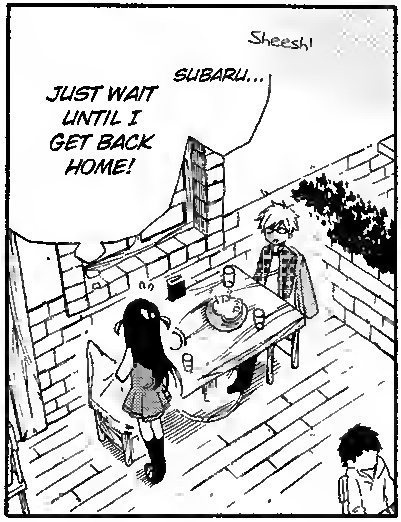
AH!

IT WAS SPICY...?
Gasp
IT...
Wheeze

IS SUBARU TRYING...
TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD...?
IS HE SERIOUSLY TRYING TO DISAPPOINT ASAKURA-KUN...!?
HE MAY BE MY BROTHER, BUT THAT'S SO PETTY...!!
SHOULDN'T YOU GO CLEAN YOURSELF UP...?
It'll stain.
AH!
Soaked
ジャー
ゴボゴボ
TOILET

Leaving aside what happened at the karaoke box.
HE MUST REALLY BE DISAPPOINTED BY
IN THE END, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT ANYTHING FROM ASAKURA-KUN...
We haven't even talked to begin with
THANKS FOR TODAY.


...BE-SIDES...


Sheesh!
SUBARU...
JUST WAIT UNTIL I GET BACK HOME!

THE TRUTH IS, MY FRIENDS TOLD ME
THAT ASKING YOU OUT WHEN WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER WOULD ONLY BOTHER YOU,
SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT INVITING YOU OUT, TOO...
N...
...HUH?
I MEAN INVITING ME TO HANG OUT WITH YOU.
U-
UM!
ASAKURA-KUN...
NOW'S MY CHANCE...!!
DID YOU COME TO LIKE ME?
WHERE
AND
WHY

ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
!!
.....
...A-ALL RIGHT!!! I WAS ABLE TO ASK HIM...!!!
IN THE EARLY MORNING,
YOU JOG DOWN BY THE RIVER, RIGHT?
HUH...? Y-YEAH,
THOSE ARE DAYS WHEN I DON'T HAVE TEAM PRACTICE IN THE MORNING...
I DO THE SAME THING.
HUH ...?
I...I HAD NO IDEA...!!
WHENEVER WE'D PASS BY EACH OTHER,

I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW PRETTY
YOUR LONG BLACK HAIR IS.
MY... HAIR?
WELL... THIS IS THE ONLY THING I MAINTAIN, BUT...
"IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE TO DAMAGE IT WHEN YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY HAIR."
IS THAT IT!?
DOES THAT MEAN... ASAKURA-KUN HAS...

A BLACK HAIR FETISH ...!?
A conversation from some time ago
There are a lot of guys out there that have a black hair fetish.
Fetish?
? ?
THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU STICK IN MY HEAD, SHIRATORI-SAN.
STICK IN HIS HEAD?
I'M ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM,
BUT ONE DAY MY COACH GOT REALLY MAD AT ME DURING A PRACTICE MATCH.
He was all "You can't even do something like this!?"
THE NEXT DAY, I WENT OUT JOGGING WHILE I WAS STILL DEPRESSED.
ザァァァァァ
AT THAT TIME...
LISTEN TO THIS, SHIRATORI-CHAN!

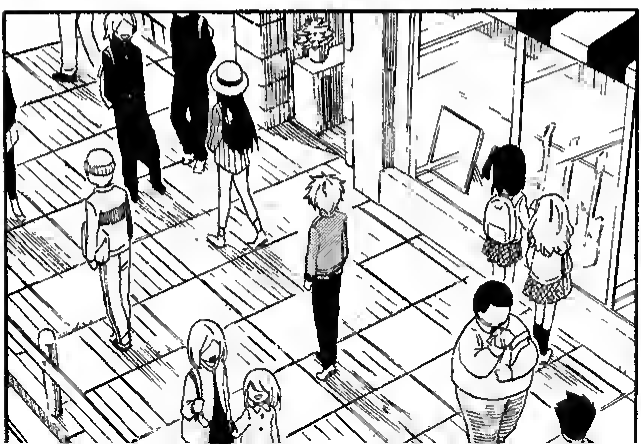
DO IT FOR YOUR OLD SCHOOL!
GO TELL HIM OFF, TSUKASA!
I KNOW THAT HE'S GOOD AT IT, BUT HE'S SO ANNOYING!!
A NEW GUY ON THE TEAM SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY WITH GIRLS!!
きゃん
きゃん
きゃん
HMM...
Alums don't really have a say in this.
GUYS LIKE THAT ALWAYS SHOW UP EVENTUALLY,
SO IN THAT CASE,
.....?
I'LL HELP YOU GET BETTER THAN THAT GUY
SO THAT HE'LL WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU!

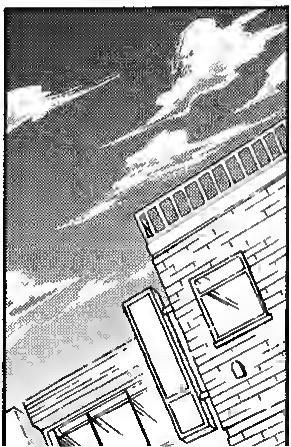
AFTER YOU SAID THAT,
YOU HELPED THOSE KIDS PRACTICE
UNTIL YOU WERE ALL COVERED IN MUD.
SEEING YOU LIKE THAT
KIND OF
CHEERED ME UP, TOO.
.....

...I
SO I DECIDED TO COME SEE YOU.
AND THAT WAS WHEN I LEARNED YOUR NAME,
YOU SOMETIMES WORE YOUR SCHOOL'S TRACKSUIT,
BUT...
I SEEM TO REMEMBER... SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING...
JU...
JUST SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
LIM... IS WHY YOU...
...TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU YET, SHIRATORI-SAN,
BUT
I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU.

TO ME,
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO "LIKE" SOMEONE.
キ!!
.....!
...WELL, IT'S JUST GOING TO BOTHER YOU TO HEAR THIS STUFF FROM ME,
SO I'LL JUST GO HOME FOR TODAY.
I'LL
SEE YOU LATER.

RATTLE
RATTLE

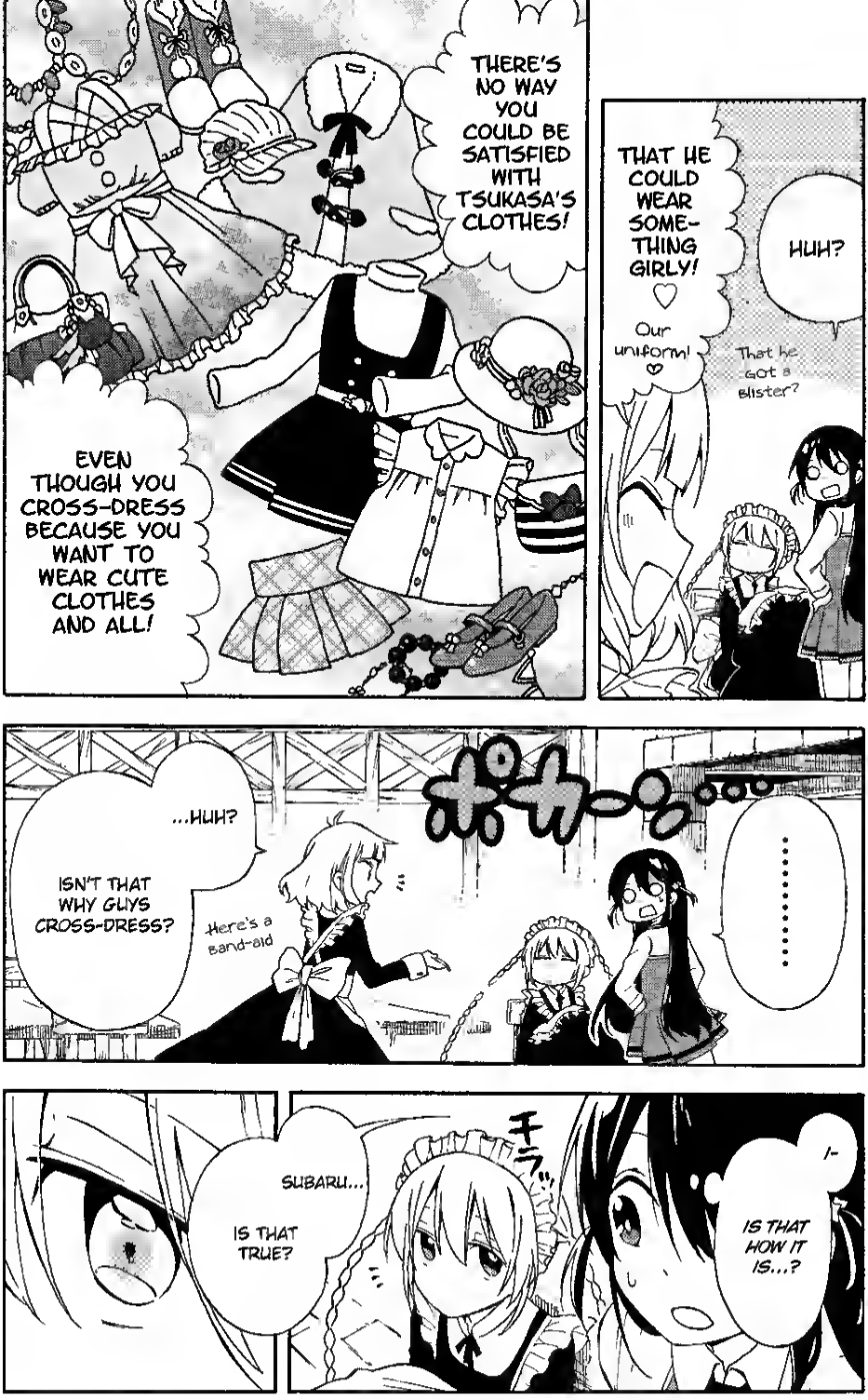




がくっ
!?
Whew...
KUH...
Shake
Shake
Uh...
I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TELL HER...
THAT I'M ACTUALLY... REALLY BAD WITH SWEETS...
I FEEL SICK...
AND I DIDN'T...
EVEN... HAVE
I NEVER THOUGHT...
BUT STILL...
THAT CONFESSING MY FEELINGS TO HER A SECOND TIME WOULD BE THIS EMBARRASSING...

THE COURAGE
TO TELL HER THE WHOLE REASON WHY I LIKE HER...
UMM...
.....

G...Good work...
ぐぬぬ...!
Well, I'M USED TO IT, THOUGH.
AH! MY MOM MADE THESE FOR US! YOU CAN HAVE SOME TOO, TSUKASA!
I don't want to move...
I don't want to move...
HAHAHA
KAHA!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR PUTTING SOMETHING WEIRD IN MY DRINK!
YOU MAY BE MY SISTER, BUT YOU'RE SO PETTY...
SUBARU,
Nadeshiko, are you alive?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'm dyin...
...I GOT A BLISTER...
BECAUSE I'VE NEVER WORN SHOES LIKE THESE BEFORE...
BUT
AREN'T YOU GLAD, SUBARU-KUN?


THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD BE SATISFIED WITH TSUKASA'S CLOTHES!
EVEN THOUGH YOU CROSS-DRESS BECAUSE YOU WANT TO WEAR CUTE CLOTHES AND ALL!
HUH?
THAT HE COULD WEAR SOME-THING GIRLY! ♡
Our uniform! ♡
That he got a blister?
...HUH?
ISN'T THAT WHY GUYS CROSS-DRESS?
Here's a band-aid
.....
SUBARU...
IS THAT TRUE?
チラッ
I-
IS THAT HOW IT IS...?

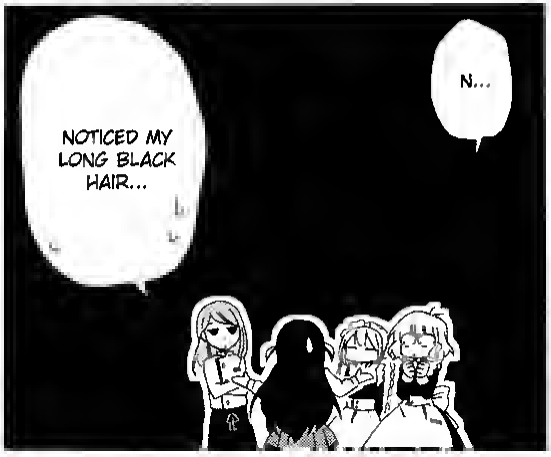
.....
YEAH.
REA-
LLY
!?
WHAAAT!
I knew it!
CUTE CLOTHES ARE WHERE IT'S AT, AFTER ALL!
TSUKASA AND NADESHIKO AREN'T INTERESTED IN FASHION, SO IT FEELS LIKE I'VE FOUND A KINDRED SPIRIT!
.....
YEAH,
TSUKASA WEARS TRACKSUITS ALL YEAR LONG, AFTER ALL.

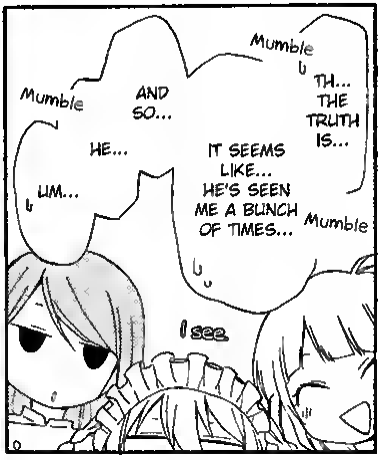
バサッ
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH CHITCHAT.
LET'S GET TO THE CLEANUP.
...OH, SO THEN IT'S REALLY JUST THAT HE'S INTO THAT...?

I'LL HELP YOU!!
Huh?
Even though I didn't do anything, I ate these snacks!!
Yaay!
Subaru-kun's foot is injured, too
OKAY.
AH, YOU TWO CAN GO BACK HOME.

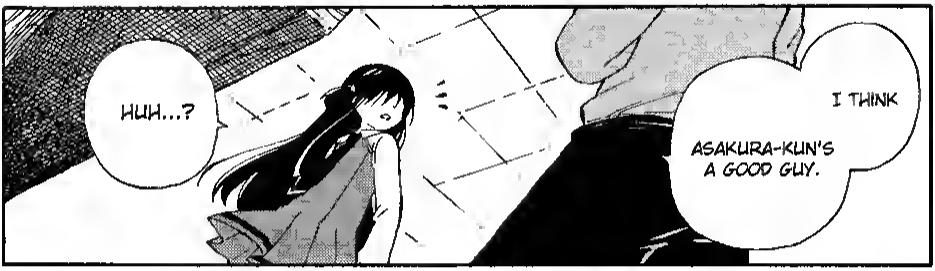
GO BACK HOME AND THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT YOUR REPLY TO ASAKURA-KUN!!
YOU ALREADY HAVE A JOB TO TAKE CARE OF!!

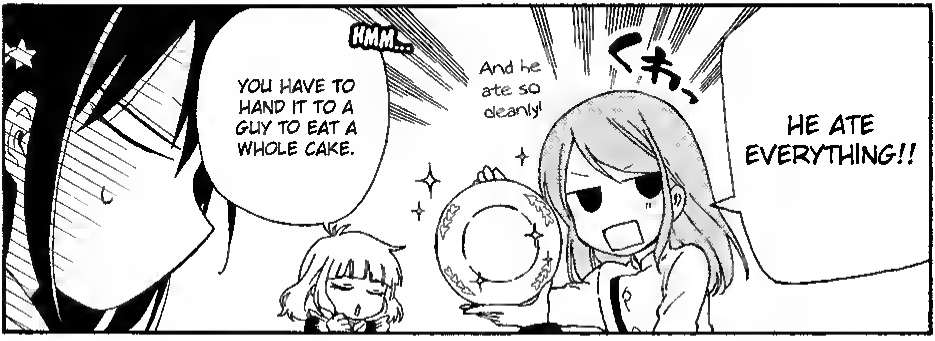
ALL OF YOU WERE TRYING TO OVERHEAR US...?
SAME HERE.
I WAS SO BUSY THAT I MISSED OUT ON HEARING IT!
IN THE END, WHY DOES HE LIKE YOU?
SO,
ずいずいずい


N...
NOTICED MY LONG BLACK HAIR...


Mumble
TH... THE TRUTH IS...
Mumble
AND SO...
HE...
IT SEEMS LIKE... HE'S SEEN ME A BUNCH OF TIMES...
Mumble
UM...
I see.

I'M SORRY, ASAKURA-KUN!!!
BUT IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING TO TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY!
Fetish?
HUH...? SO HE JUST HAD A BLACK HAIR FETISH...?

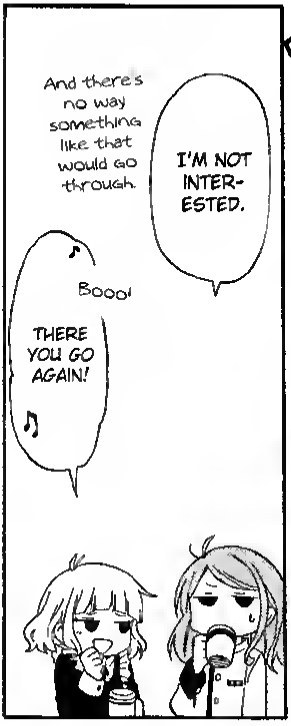

HUH...?
I THINK ASAKURA-KUN'S A GOOD GUY.

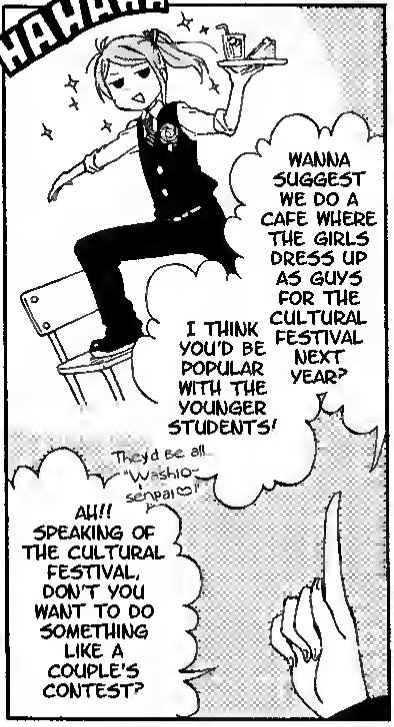

HMM...
YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO A GUY TO EAT A WHOLE CAKE.
And he ate so cleanly!
HE ATE EVERYTHING!!

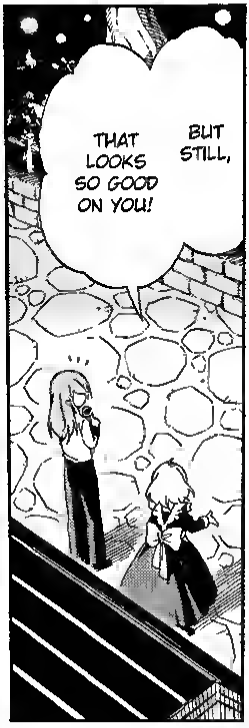
WHY DON'T YOU TRY GIVING ASAKURA-KUN
SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT?

.....
O...KAY...
Whew...
IT'S OVER...
THANKS FOR TODAY, NADESHIKO!!
YOU DID SUCH A GREAT JOB!!
My face muscles...
BUT BEING IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY IS A LOT OF WORK.

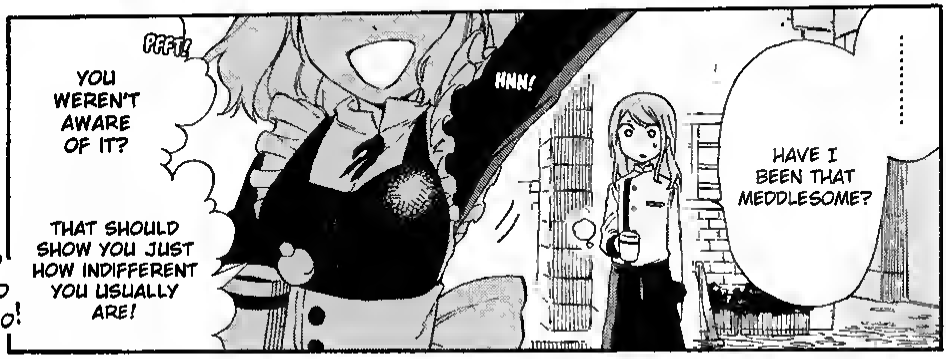
I'VE TOTALLY GOTTEN USED TO PUTTING ON A SMILE FOR THE CUSTOMERS!
Ha ha ha!
BUT YOUR SMILE WAS SOMEWHAT LACKING, THOUGH, NADESHIKO!

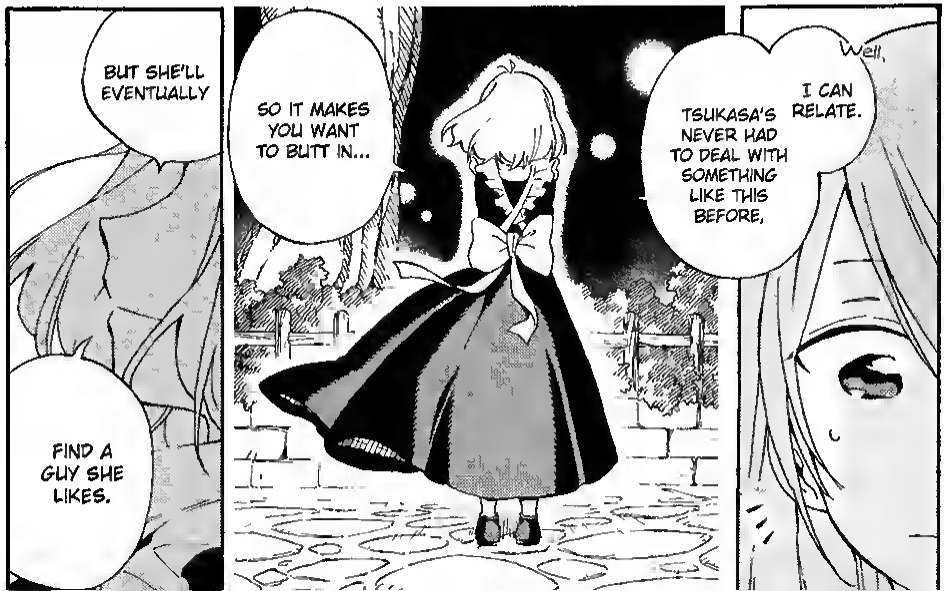

I'M NOT INTERESTED.
And there's no way something like that would go through.
♪ Booo! ♪
THERE YOU GO AGAIN!


HAHAHA
WANNA SUGGEST WE DO A CAFE WHERE THE GIRLS DRESS UP AS GUYS FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR?
I THINK YOU'D BE POPULAR WITH THE YOUNGER STUDENTS!
They'd be all "Waahh~ senpai~!"
AH!! SPEAKING OF THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, DON'T YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE A COUPLE'S CONTEST?


BUT STILL,
THAT LOOKS SO GOOD ON YOU!

HUH?
IN WHAT'S GOING ON WITH TSUKASA AND THIS GUY?
THEN WHY ARE YOU MEDDLING SO MUCH


HAVE I BEEN THAT MEDDLESOME?
HNN!
PFFT!
YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF IT?
THAT SHOULD SHOW YOU JUST HOW INDIFFERENT YOU USUALLY ARE!
Ho ho ho!


Well,
I CAN RELATE.
TSUKASA'S NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE,
SO IT MAKES YOU WANT TO BUTT IN...
BUT SHE'LL EVENTUALLY
FIND A GUY SHE LIKES.

AFTER ALL,
ISN'T THAT NORMAL?
SHIVER
WANNA GO BACK INSIDE?
IT'S GETTING CHILLY...
Uweh
Whoosh

...I'LL STAY HERE.
I'M GONNA LOOK AT THE STARS FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

A TEXT...
AH!
IT'S FROM ONE OF ASAKURA-KUN'S FRIENDS I MET TODAY...
Thanks for today! It was a lot of fun! If it's okay with you, I'd like to hang out with you again, Kotooka-san!!! What do you think?
BUZZ
BUZZ

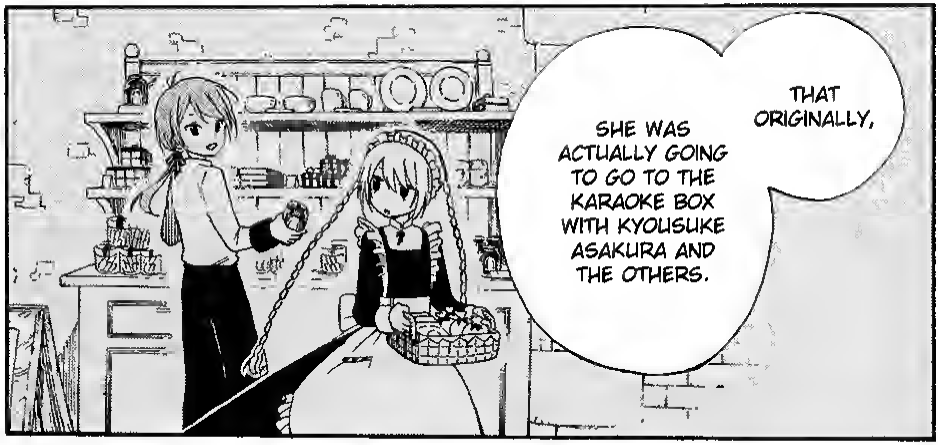
Of course! I'd love to!!
Tap Tap
A GUY I CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH.
I HAVE TO HURRY UP... AND FIND...
IT'S FINE... THIS WAY...

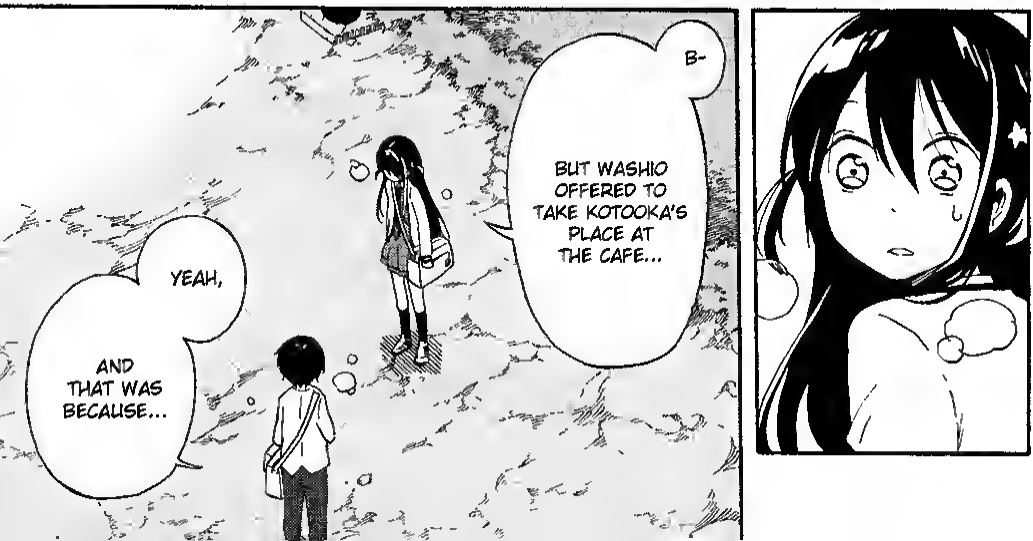
SO...
YOU HAVE TO HURRY UP TOO, TSUKASA...

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO QUIET FOR A WHILE NOW...?
TSUKASA, WAIT UP!

TSUKASA ...?
.....
...AH, LOOK, KOTOOKA-SAN GAVE US A CAKE AS A PRESENT.
Umm, SHE'S SUCH A NICE GIRL.
LOOK
LOOK
Oo。
YEAH... SHE IS...
Wa- ! WASHIO-SAN IS A NICE GIRL, TOO!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
...?
HUH ...?
UMM...
AH!
WASHIO-SAN TOLD ME


SHE WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO GO TO THE KARAOKE BOX WITH KYOUSUKE ASAKURA AND THE OTHERS.
THAT ORIGINALLY,


B-
BUT WASHIO OFFERED TO TAKE KOTOOKA'S PLACE AT THE CAFE...
YEAH,
AND THAT WAS BECAUSE...

"INSTEAD OF ME GOING, KOTOOKA IS USED TO STUFF LIKE THAT,
SO SHE'D BE OF MORE HELP TO SHIRATORI."
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS,
I think she said something about being concerned for you...
...HUH? DID SHE TELL ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM YOU?
MAN.. SHE REALLY CARES FOR HER FRIENDS ...WAIT...

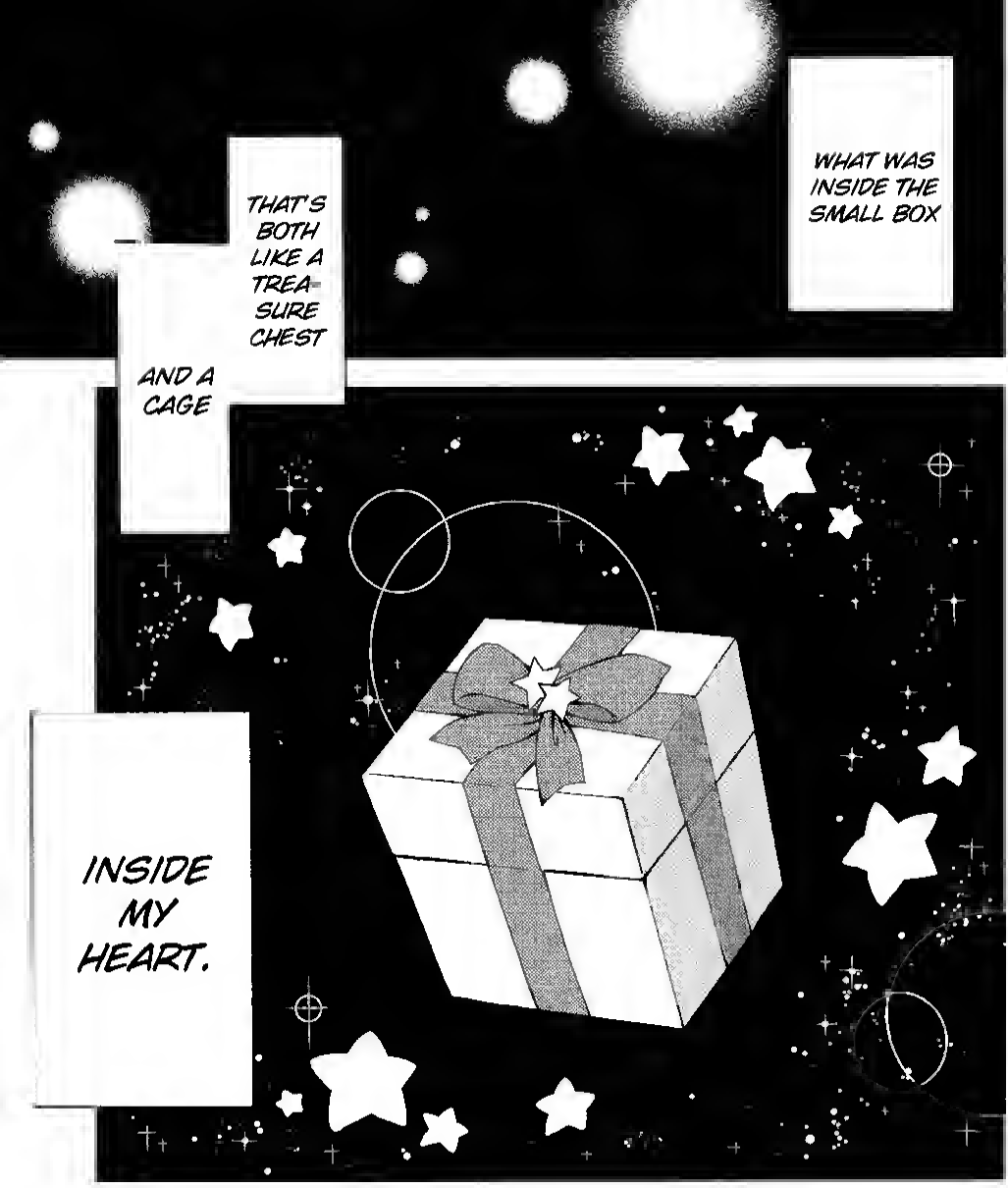
IT REALLY HITS HOME.
ACTU-ALLY,
HOW MANY MORE TIMES WILL I HAVE TO EXPERIENCE IT UNTIL I UNDERSTAND
THAT WASHIO
...DOESN'T SEE ME IN THAT WAY?

!
TSUKASA ....
WHAT'S WRONG...?
.....

.....
ONE MONTH AGO...
Are you crying because she hit it earlier?
Uuuu, what's wrong?
THE DAY BEFORE...
VALENTINE'S DAY...

AT THAT TIME,

I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND


WHAT WAS INSIDE THE SMALL BOX
THAT'S BOTH LIKE A TREA-SURE CHEST
AND A CAGE
INSIDE MY HEART.

EVEN THOUGH

IT'S DEFINITELY THERE,
I DON'T WANT TO FIND IT.

ALTHOUGH IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT,
EVEN IF I PART WITH IT, I WANT TO SHUT IT AWAY.

ONLY THESE NAMELESS FEELINGS
WERE SPARKLING LIKE THE STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY...

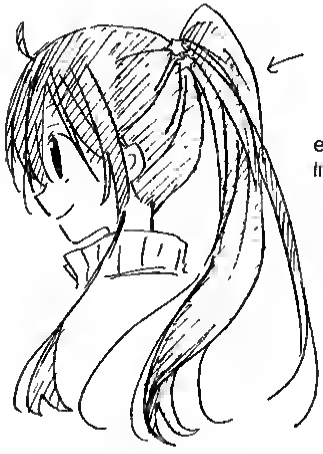
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M KINA KOBAYASHI.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP "NANASHI NO ASTERISM" VOLUME 1!!
I'M SOOOO HAPPY THAT MY LONG HELD DREAM OF DRAWING A SERIES AND PUTTING OUT A VOLUME HAS COME TRUE.
THIS IS THANKS TO ALL OF THE READERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ME.
PLEASE ENJOY THE UPCOMING DEVELOPMENTS.
WELL THEN, LET'S MEET AGAIN IN VOLUME 2...!!!

I'm on Twitter. Check it for news about the latest chapters. ➪ @udonkimuchikaki

Kina Kobayashi

TSUKASA SHIRATORI

- 149 cm
- O-type blood
- Girls' soccer team
- Best subject: P.E.
- Favorite Foods
  Ramen (miso)
  Cream puffs
- Disliked Food
  Pickled eggplant



She wears a ponytail when exercising like during P.E. and when playing soccer.

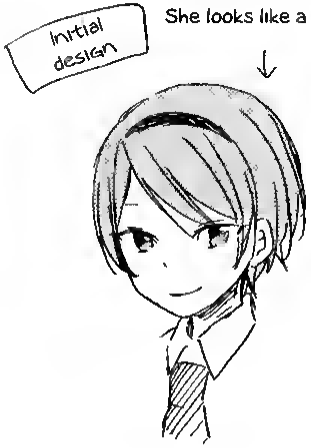
NADESHIKO WASHIO

- 162 cm (For now)
- AB-type blood
- Astronomy Club
- Best subject: Science
- Favorite Foods
  - Gratin
  - Green tea Flavored Foods
- Disliked Food
  - Meat Floss

At the very beginning, she had short hair, but after thinking about it, I gave her pigtails

She looks like a different person.

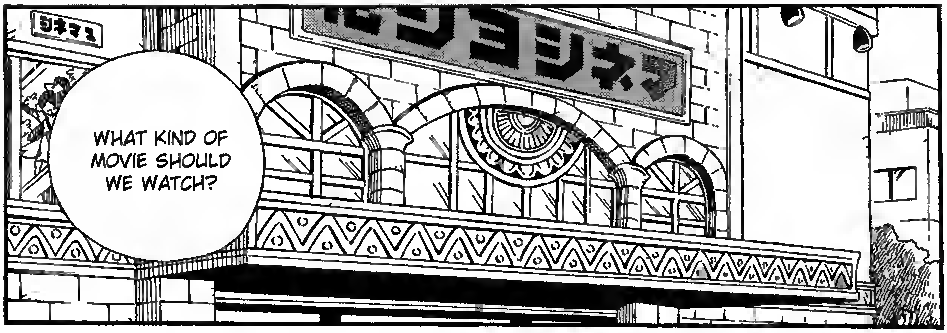
Initial design

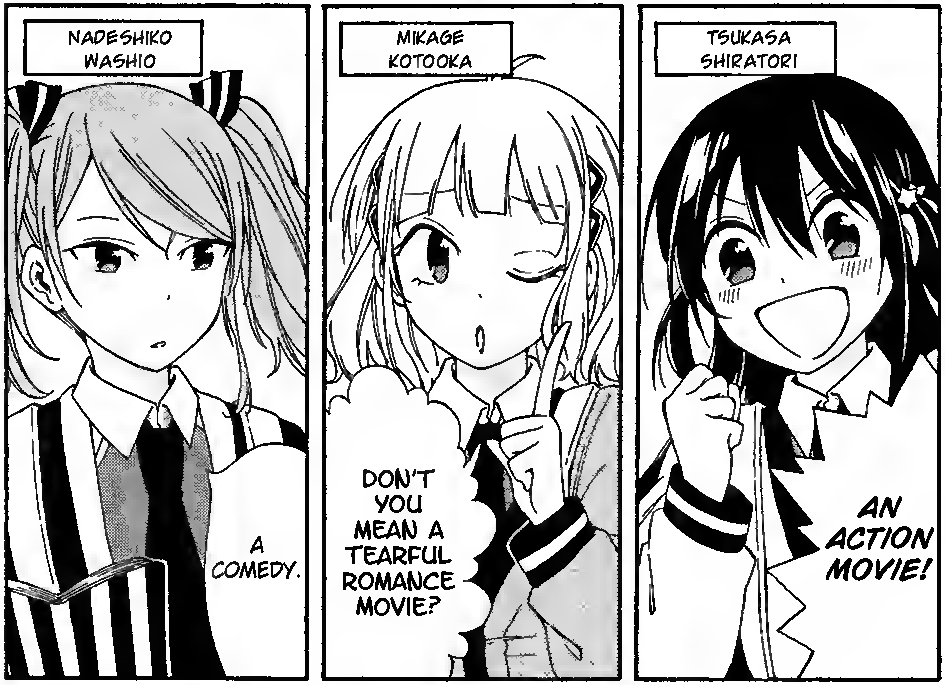


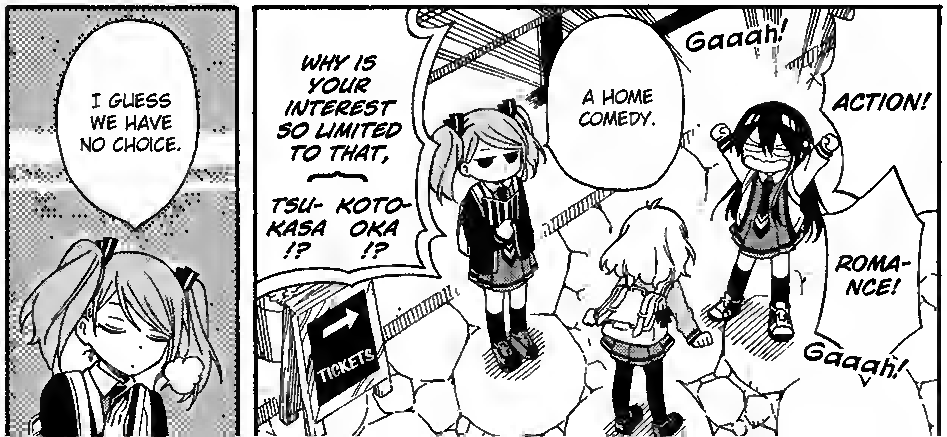
MIKAGE KOTOOKA

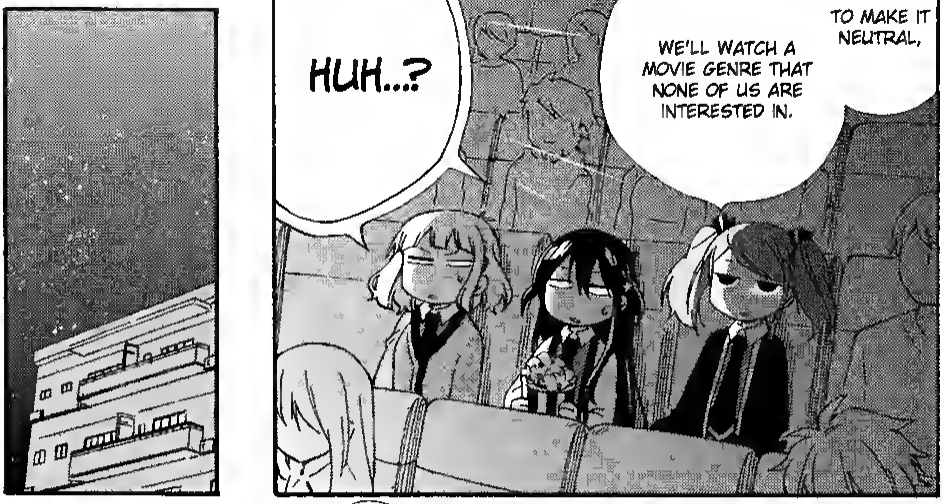
- 153 cm
- B-type blood
- Drama Club
- Best subject: Home ec
- Favorite Foods
  Grilled meat
  Chocolate Flavored Foods
- Disliked Food
  Raw Fish

At the very beginning, she had droopy eyes and her personality was fluffier. She looks like a different person.

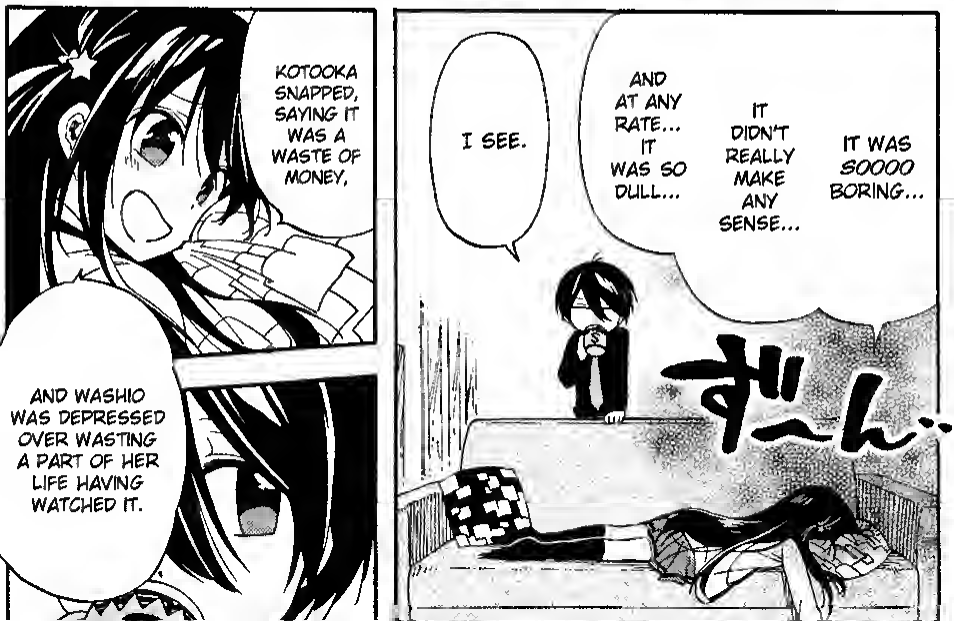

WHAT KIND OF MOVIE SHOULD WE WATCH?

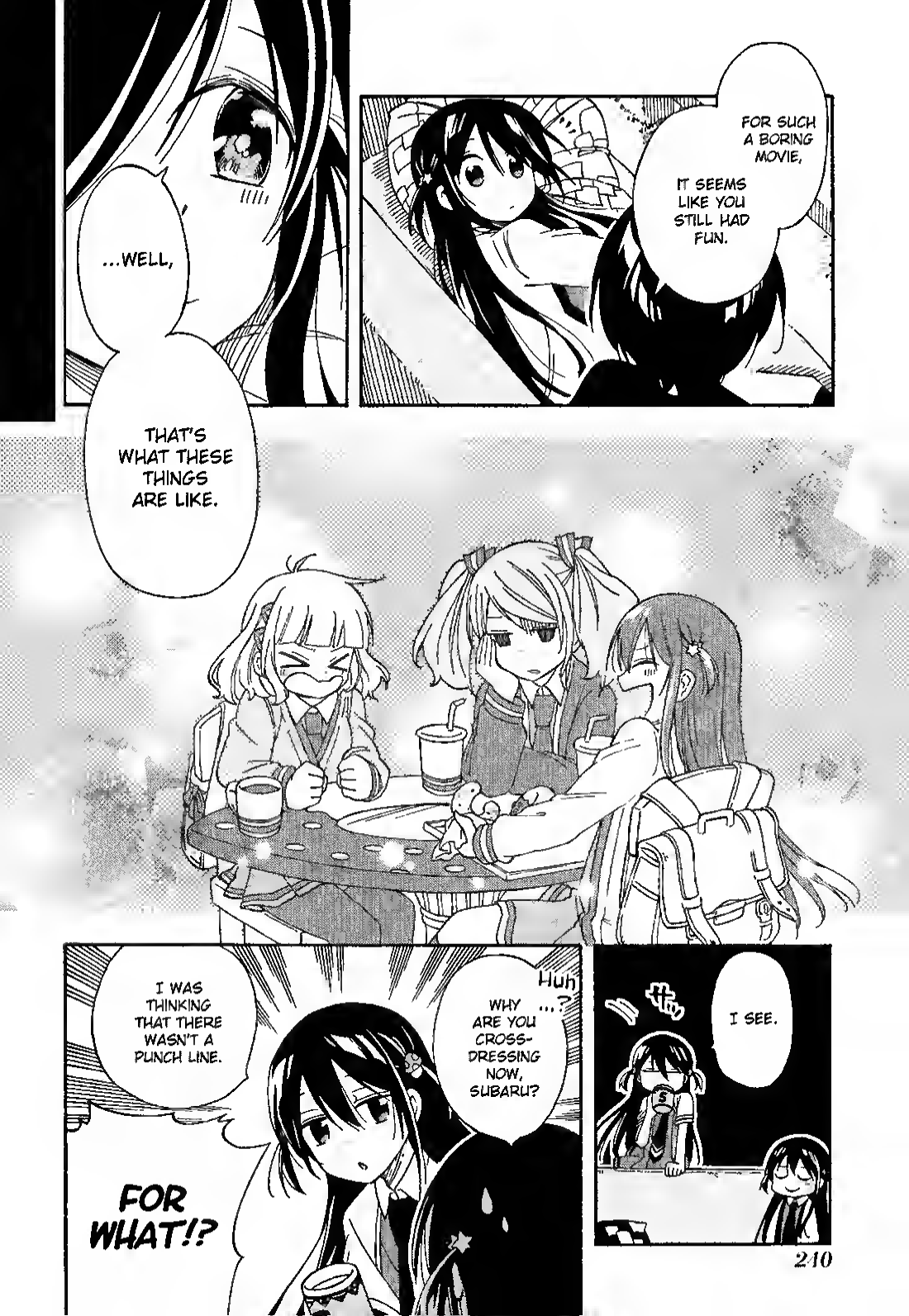

NADESHIKO WASHIO
A COMEDY.
MIKAGE KOTOOKA
DON'T YOU MEAN A TEARFUL ROMANCE MOVIE?
TSUKASA SHIRATORI
AN ACTION MOVIE!


I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
WHY IS YOUR INTEREST SO LIMITED TO THAT,
TSU-KASA !?
KOTO-OKA !?
A HOME COMEDY.
Gaaah!
ACTION!
ROMA-NCE!
Gaaah!
TICKETS


HUH...?
WE'LL WATCH A MOVIE GENRE THAT NONE OF US ARE INTERESTED IN.
TO MAKE IT NEUTRAL,

TSUKASA'S TWIN BROTHER: SUBARU
...SO, YOU WATCHED A MOVIE IN A GENRE YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND?


KOTOOKA SNAPPED, SAYING IT WAS A WASTE OF MONEY,
AND WASHIO WAS DEPRESSED OVER WASTING A PART OF HER LIFE HAVING WATCHED IT.
I SEE.
AND AT ANY RATE... IT WAS SO DULL...
IT DIDN'T REALLY MAKE ANY SENSE...
IT WAS SOOOO BORING...
ずーん...


...WELL,
THAT'S WHAT THESE THINGS ARE LIKE.
FOR SUCH A BORING MOVIE,
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU STILL HAD FUN.
I SEE.
Huh ...?
WHY ARE YOU CROSS-DRESSING NOW, SUBARU?
I WAS THINKING THAT THERE WASN'T A PUNCH LINE.
FOR WHAT!?

SPECIAL THANKS

Editor: Takeshi Nakagawa-sama
Assistant: Kurita-sama
Everyone involved in the
production of this book

And all of the readers